200 political prisoners go on hunger strike

STORY ON PAGE A2

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Fire guts PICC

A FIRE raged out of control last night and gutted the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City. Smoke began billowing from the back of the five-story PICC, which houses the office of the Vice President, around 8:50 p.m. By midnight, the walls had collapsed and the fire was still raging. A daughter of Vice President Teofisto Guingona said that rooms used by her father's staff on the fifth floor had been gutted. No one was reported injured in the blaze. Authorities did not say what started the fire. *Jerome Aning*

2 estafa cases filed vs Urban Bank execs

THE JUSTICE department yesterday filed in court charges of estafa involving P1.8 billion against 11 officials of financially troubled Urban Bank Corp. led by its chair Arsenio Bartolome III and president Teodoro Borlongan.

The 11 officials were accused of "willfully, unlawfully, and feloniously" misappropriating money of Urban Bank depositors that were used

2 ESTAFA/ A18

Loi: 'I don't have that amount of money'

BY VOLT CONTRERAS AND MICHAEL LIM UBAC

FORMER first lady Dr. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito yesterday denied owning as much as P110 million which, according to Ombudsman Aniano Desierto, she withdrew from Citibank NA on Feb. 1.

"I don't have that amount of money," Ejercito said in late interview over dzXL radio.

Asked if she was willing to withdraw from the Senate race if Desierto's allegations were proven true, she replied: "Why not, if they can prove it."

Citibank NA also dismissed as "erroneous and inaccurate" Desierto's allegations that the former first lady withdrew P110 million from one of the bank's branches on Feb. 1.

Reacting to the bank's denial, Ombudsman officials said Desierto

LOI/ A18

SC gag order blamed on Desierto

BY DONNA S. CUETO AND MICHAEL LIM UBAC

IT was Ombudsman Aniano Desierto's "fault" that the Supreme Court issued a resolution Wednesday imposing a 30-day status quo and gag order, according to a lawyers' group that had filed plunder cases against ousted President Joseph Estrada.

"This was not at all a victory for Mr. Estrada because it did not mean that his case is strong. This was really Desierto's fault," said Leonard de Vera of the Caucus of Lawyers for Erap's Abrupt Resignation (CLEAR).

He said it was Desierto's violation of the tribunal's order issued in open court on Feb. 15 that led to the issuance of the resolution.

De Vera pointed out that at the Feb. 15 hearing of the consolidated case filed by Estrada questioning the legality of Gloria Macapagal-

SC/ A19

Navy chief: Reyes forced me to retire

FIRES OF REMEMBRANCE
President Macapagal kicks off the nationwide celebration of the 15th anniversary of People Power I at the Centennial Park Plaza in Davao City.

BY CARLITO PABLO

THE OFFICER whose relief the Marine Corps had been demanding chose to resign instead of accepting a demotion.

WONG'S woes

"I have to leave," Rear Adm. Guillermo Wong told the INQUIRER yesterday in reference to his decision to resign effective March 1, nine months earlier than his scheduled retirement from the service.

Wong said Gen. Angelo Reyes, outgoing chief of staff of the Armed Forces, had simply told him that the situation "may be about to explode."

"I wanted to stay but they were forcing me to retire. I guess it is the honorable thing to do," he told reporters.

The conflict involving Wong is the latest indication of divisions in the AFP. Lately, the jockeying among certain military factions for the post of Reyes, who is due to retire on March 17, has intensified.

At a meeting Wednesday afternoon in Camp Aguinaldo, Reyes offered Wong the newly formed Northern Command that integrates the AFP's Northern Luzon and Southern Luzon commands.

Wong refused the offer that was apparently meant to placate the Marine Corps, the military's principal fighting unit, which demanded his head

NAVY/ A18

Edsa Shrine: Where man is fully alive

BY NORMAN BORDADORA AND ANDREA T. ECHAVEZ

"THE SITE of man fully alive."

So did Msgr. Socrates Villegas, rector of the historic Edsa Shrine, describe the spot where, 15 years ago, Filipinos armed with flowers, prayers and many hopes stood in the way of tanks to finally end the 20-year dictatorship of the late Ferdinand Marcos.

"When millions of people gather in prayer, how can God not be there?" said Villegas, the spokesperson of Jaime Cardinal Sin, who recently declared the shrine "holy ground" where Christian pilgrims are granted plenary indulgences by the Roman Catholic Church.

Villegas told the INQUIRER in a recent interview that the People Power Revolts of 1986 and 2001 showed the glory of people "coming generously together in vigilance and in prayer."

But at the start of the four-day anniversary of People Power I, which culminates with an official celebration on Feb. 25, militant groups announced that they would return to Edsa, but not in celebration.

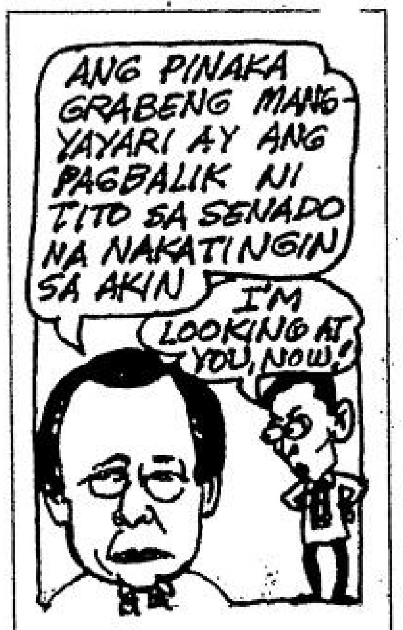
"We're going back to Edsa to admonish President Macapagal-Arroyo that a month of waiting is enough and remind her government of its unfulfilled commitments to the Filipino people who made People Power II possible," Bayan secretary general Teodoro Casiño said in a press conference in Quezon City yesterday.

Bayan, the Kilusang Mayo Uno, the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas and other major left-wing groups complained that President Macapagal failed to meet her two-week "self-imposed deadline" to respond to the "people's agenda."

Today, the groups will formally launch the "People Power III" movement for "justice and social reform."

"This is a warning to the President that she should shape up. We are getting impatient with her con-

EDSA/ A18


ANG PINAKA GRABENG MANGYAYARI AY ANG PAGBALIK NI TITO SA SENADO NA NAKATINGIN SA AKIN
I'M LOOKING AT YOU, NOW!

Nene does not like Tito's glare

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA

THERE is a bigger "tragedy" for Senate President Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel Jr., than ousted Joseph Estrada being restored to the presidency.

"One of the worst things that can happen is that Tito will come back to the

NENE/ A18

INQUIRER receives People's Heroes Award from the Council for Philippine Affairs. Publisher Isagani Yambot accepts the award from the President.

VAL HANDUMON

People Power heroes cited

GMA also honors nameless Filipinos at Edsa

BY DONNA S. CUETO

THE INQUIRER, Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, and three prosecution witnesses at the aborted impeachment trial of Joseph Estrada were among the first batch of "People's Heroes" honored by a Makati-based organization that worked for Mr. Estrada's ouster.

But President Macapagal-Arroyo, who attended the award ceremony at the Manila Hotel on Wednesday night, said the nameless Filipinos who flocked to Edsa and other urban centers all over the country on Jan. 19 and 20 were the ones who "most deserve the award."

The Council on Philippine Affairs (Copa) applauded witnesses Emma Lim, Clarissa Ocampo and former Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu; the 10 senators who voted for the opening of the controversial second envelope; the House prosecution panel; and the congressmen who passed the impeachment motion.

It also recognized broadcasters Gene Orejana of ANC, Jessica Soho of GMA-7, and the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ).

Copa chair William Esposo, a former Cabinet member under the Aquino administration, said other groups and individuals would be later acknowledged for the "part they played in the making of People Power II."

These included key players in the military and the multi-sectoral groups, he said.

The INQUIRER was recognized for "standing up for truth and justice in its reporting," and the PCIJ for a series of exposés on the Estrada mansions and numerous business corporations allegedly owned by the former President's several families.

Copa said that the recognition

PEOPLE/ A18

Roco uncovers ₱4-M DECS scam

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA

BARELY recovering from a "luxury car" scandal that caused the suspension of two top education officials late last year, another alleged scam has surfaced at the Department of Education, Culture and Sports, involving more than P4 million in teachers' payroll money.

A payroll officer and a janitor allegedly conspired in issuing paychecks to fictitious teachers and double payments to legitimate teachers in Region 8, or the Eastern Visayas region, from January to December last year.

In a memorandum to newly appointed Education Secretary Raul Roco, Assistant Secretary for Finance Mario Bravo identified a payroll division chief in the DECS Central office and a janitor in the accounting section as the alleged culprits behind the paycheck scam.

Roco said he was still "validating" the report, but the department has already called in the National Bureau of Investigation to look into the matter.

Bravo said the suspects, whose names the INQUIRER is withholding pending investigation, made out paychecks amounting to P4,294,822.52 for ghost teachers starting April last year.

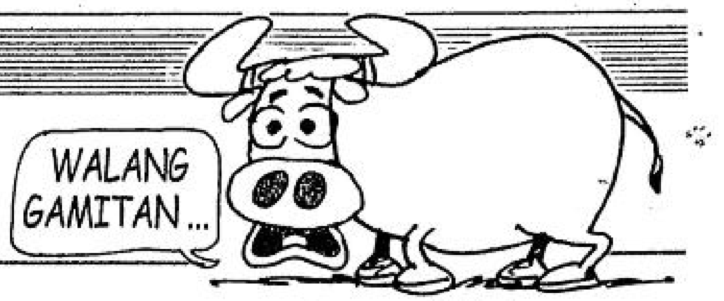
According to Rolando Checa, chief of the Payroll Services Division, the Development Bank of the Philippines has confirmed that the paychecks were cashed, and has provided the department with photocopies of the cleared paychecks.

Checa said he learned in December of the irregular payments from staff members whose divisions were allegedly being used by the suspected payroll officer to "host" the ghost teachers.

He said the checks were cashed by "unscrupulous persons" at the

ROCO/ A6

Second FRONT PAGE


WALANG GAMITAN...

Prisoners start hunger strike

By Alcuin Papa

MORE THAN 200 political prisoners all over the country started a four-day hunger strike yesterday to protest their continued incarceration and to pressure the Macapagal administration into releasing them.

In a press conference at the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa, Metro Manila, the prisoners' spokesperson Edelisio Hortellano said they began the hunger strike "to dramatize conditions in the jails and to symbolize our united front."

Taking part in the strike are political prisoners being held at the NBP, the Davao Penal Colony, the Tagum City Jail and jails in Cebu, Bohol, Samar, Leyte, Western Mindanao, Southern Mindanao, Negros, Bicol, Southern Luzon and Central Luzon.

"Our struggle does not stop with the release of a few. For one month, we were given the false hope that we would be released while the government used us as pawns to negotiate with its enemies. Our pain and that of our relatives can never be healed," Hortellano said in Filipino.

The political prisoners also blasted the "militarists" in the Macapagal government, like Executive Secretary Renato de Villa and other officials, for "sabotaging" and "delaying" their release.

"This deception spurs us to continue with our struggle. Our hunger strike is a reminder to Malacañang that we are ready to meet the deception," Hortellano said.

'Just society'

He said they were not common criminals but political prisoners who continue to fight for a "just society." If there are any criminals, he said, they are the officials in government who have delayed their release.

The prisoners, who include 66 convicted of common crimes, voluntarily stopped taking solid food early Thursday and would subsist on water, sugar and salt for the next four days, Marie Hilao-Enriquez of the political prisoners watchdog group, Karapatan, told Agence France Presse.

The Macapagal government had announced plans to free at least 73 of the political prisoners as a goodwill gesture to restart peace talks with the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the communist National Democratic Front.

But Enriquez said none of the 73 have actually been freed, more than three weeks after Macapagal announced her intent.

"The hunger strike is a challenge to the Macapagal government to fast-track the release of political prisoners until all of them are freed," Enriquez said.

About 20 relatives of prisoners mounted a picket outside Malacañang Thursday in support of the hunger strike.

POLITICAL prisoners inside Quezon City jail start their hunger strike. EDWIN BACASMAS

Ms Macapagal declared a unilateral ceasefire with the MILF on Tuesday, and aides said a similar offer is planned for the NDF.

Exiled NDF consultant Jose Maria Sison called on the government to hold the peace talks abroad, since it is "mutually convenient and safe (and) does not involve the deployment of large forces by opposing armies for security reasons."

Sison and much of the NDF senior leadership live in exile in the Netherlands.

'Tricky announcement'

In a statement to local news organizations, Sison demanded that Macapagal free all "political prisoners," denouncing her "tricky announcement of releasing only a few through some protracted and uncertain process."

He said the communists would free a soldier and a police officer abducted in 1999 only when all the communists' jailed comrades are released.

He was referring to Army Maj. Noel Buan and Chief Insp. Abelardo Martin who were abducted by communist guerrillas in Southern Tagalog almost two years ago.

In the Visayas, 19 political prisoners took mainly water yesterday to press for the early release of all detainees nationwide.

Doctors were strictly monitoring the condition of four political prisoners in Cebu, 13 in Bohol and three in Negros Oriental. Two detainees in Cebu and Iloilo did not join the strike.

Reynaldo Bocala, 55, alleged deputy of the Panay regional committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines, staged a sympathy strike by skipping breakfast at the Iloilo Rehabilitation Center.

Bocala could not join the strike because of stomach wounds suffered during a police raid on his hut in Barangay Tabiac, Igbaras town, Feb. 12.

Janet Montecalvo, a suspected New People's Army rebel who is detained at the Cebu Provincial Detention and Rehabilitation Center, also was not able to join the strike because she had chicken pox.

Four political detainees at the CPDRC took water and orange juice starting yesterday.

In a statement to media yesterday, six political detainees at the Quezon City jail said they would take only sugar, salt and water "in our struggle for justice and freedom."

The six are accused of killing Paul and Michael Quintos, sons of Rep. Ricardo Quintos.

"Our hunger strike shows our strong determination to fight until justice and freedom are served to us. It is time for the Macapagal administration to give back to the people the gains of People Power II by proving that the government is sincere in pursuing an 'all-out' peace campaign by releasing political prisoners like us," the statement said.

The hunger strikers were joined by members of militant groups like Kilusang Mayo Uno, the Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace, the Health Alliance for Democracy and the National Network of Agrarian Reform Advocates.

But a group opposed to the release of political prisoners convicted of murder and other atrocities said it would take to the streets if the planned release of the detainees pushes through.

The National Alliance for Democracy said it would mobilize over one million of its followers should the nationwide release be implemented.

NAD chair Pastor Alcover Jr. said releasing the convicted criminals would be a grave injustice to their victims and their families. *With Nagiel B. Bañacia, Diosa Labiste, Carla P. Gomez, Alex V. Pal and Chito A. Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau, and AFP*

Gloria urges MILF: Drop all 'pre-conditions'

By Armand N. Nocum

DAVAO CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday urged the Moro Islamic Liberation Front to drop all "pre-conditions" to the resumption of peace talks with the government.

In a dialogue with Catholic bishops and Muslim religious leaders here, the President said she had ordered the suspension of military operations in Mindanao to "pave the way for the reconstruction of the peace process."

"Our message to the MILF is this: We have decided to stop firing. It is now your turn to unload your weapons and keep them for a while," she told those attending the 15th Bishops-Ulama Forum General Assembly.

Ms Macapagal said the MILF should instead concentrate on organizing its own peace panel to deal with the government side.

'Dwelling on pre-conditions'

"Let us not dwell on pre-conditions. Let us dwell on how we could take a common stand for peace. Peace with honor, peace with justice, peace with dignity for all concerned," she said.

Her kind of peace, she added, would be a "peace without blame, peace without surrender."

The President was referring to an MILF demand that it be allowed to return to its captured military camps in Maguindanao, a condition the President said she was not inclined to give in to.

At the same meeting, Ms Macapagal announced the formation of an inter-agency committee to "oversee the implementation of all our rehabilitation and development programs as far as they relate to the areas of conflict."

'Peace-driven development'

She said acting Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita would head the panel. Ermita also serves as the presidential adviser on the peace process."

"The principle involved here is this. If any program of government will bring peace, then it is a good program," she said in describing her "peace-driven development" program.

At the gathering that was well attended by many sectors here, the President also said she would maintain close ties with the Organization of Islamic Conference.

"The (OIC) will continue to be our indispensable ally. We will continue to depend on the goodwill, the close support and the amity of the Islamic nations in the search for peace and development," she said.

The President revealed that she had signed into law an amendment to the organic act of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

She said a plebiscite in ARMM provinces will be held with the May 14 elections, and its first set of leaders will be elected in September.

At the start of the program, the President swore in members of the government peace panel led by Jesus Dureza and Irene Santiago.

In the same forum, both Catholic and Muslim religious leaders lauded the Macapagal administration for its efforts to bring peace to Mindanao and for naming several Mindanao leaders to her Cabinet.

In this her first official visit to Davao, the President was met by about 100 pro-Estrada protesters who declared Davao "Erap country" and called for Ms Macapagal's ouster.

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A FILMGRAB of a Channel 2 report showing Estrada mistress Laarni Enriquez moving through the Naia's arrival area with two escorts.

Oreta, Sotto aides helped Laarni at Naia

By TJ Burgonio

THE LIST of persons who helped Laarni Enriquez try to re-enter the country unnoticed Sunday just got longer.

Yesterday, the name of Ernesto Yabut, an aide of Sen. Vicente Sotto III, cropped up in the investigation into the attempt to spirit Enriquez, one of ousted President Joseph Estrada's mistresses, through the Naia.

Yabut was seen escorting Enriquez through the arrival area along with another man identified as Jake Acuña, alleged chief of staff of Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta.

The two were seen on the airport's closed circuit TV walking Enriquez through the customs and immigration areas in an attempt to bypass these, according to airport general manager Edgardo Manda.

However, an alert immigration agent stopped them and asked for Enriquez's documents which she signed.

Another man, identified as Cpl. Ramon de Jesus, a former aide to Estrada and a member of the airport police department, also reportedly met Enriquez although he was not seen on the TV monitor.

Enriquez flew in on a Continental Micronesia flight from Guam. The airline was fined P50,000 after her name did not show up on the immigration list.

Manda said authorities were considering filing technical smuggling and usurpation of authority charges against those involved in the surreptitious return of Enriquez.

He ordered the issuance of passes to government officials and their staff as well as airport personnel restricted.

"I believe there was a conspiracy to spirit Enriquez out of the airport,'' Manda said, noting that her arrival was timed with the arrival of a Northwest Airlines and a Cathay Pacific flight to ensure that there would be the usual commotion at the airport.

An airport official, who asked not to be named, said Acuña, Yabut and De Jesus will be told to surrender their airport IDs and access passes.

Acuña, however, denied escorting Enriquez. Oreta also belied reports that Acuña was her chief of staff or connected to her in any way.

Yabut and De Jesus could not be reached for comment.

But another airport official, who also requested anonymity, said Acuña went to work for Oreta after quitting his airport post on Jan. 31.

He said it was Acuña who made the request for the issuance of an airport ID to Yabut, claiming he was a member of Sotto's staff, and the office of Sotto followed it up with a written request.

He said Acuña used his old MIAA ID while Yabut and De Jesus used their newly issued IDs when they escorted Enriquez.

Enriquez returned to the country Feb. 18, more than one month after she hastily left for the United States to avoid testifying at Estrada's impeachment trial at the Senate.

Her arrival surprised immigration officers, who insisted that they had no record of her arrival. It was later established that she did not clear the immigration arrival counter and that some people escorted her out of the airport.

Yesterday, the "real" chief of staff of Oreta said Acuña was not in any way connected to the senator's office.

Teresita Samson Castillo, Oreta's chief of staff, said in a statement that Acuña "was never a member of the senator's staff, whether in the House or in the Senate, and he was never the senator's chief of staff."

She admitted, however, that Acuña had campaigned for Oreta in the 1998 senatorial elections.

"Whatever Acuña did at the airport, he did of his own accord," she said.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said, however, he did not see anything wrong with the special treatment given to Enriquez.

"A lot of VIPs are usually given courtesies that are not normally extended to lower life forms," Pimentel said. *With a report from Juliet L. Javellana*

Manila protests US plane breach of RP air space

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE GOVERNMENT filed a diplomatic protest against the United States last week for the illegal entry of a US military aircraft into Philippine air space last December.

The Department of Foreign Affairs sent the US Embassy a note verbale to protest the incident, saying it was "against international law and not in accordance with how friendly states" deal with each other.

Diplomatic sources said a US Navy P-3 aircraft was spotted over San Fernando, La Union, on Dec. 21.

The DFA said that it did not clear the flight and the US Navy authorities did not apply for clearance.

Foreign military aircraft have to seek diplomatic clearance from the DFA, which in turn clears it with the Armed Forces of the Philippines, before they can enter Philippine air space.

Foreign Undersecretary Lauro Baja Jr. said the violation was "an isolated incident."

"It doesn't happen very often," he said.

The US Embassy has not replied to the Philippine diplomatic protest.

The last time Manila lodged a diplomatic protest against the US over a similar incident was in 1997 when a US Air Force C-135 entered Philippine air space without clearance.

The US Embassy at the time said they realized that it was a valid concern on the part of the Philippines, sources said.

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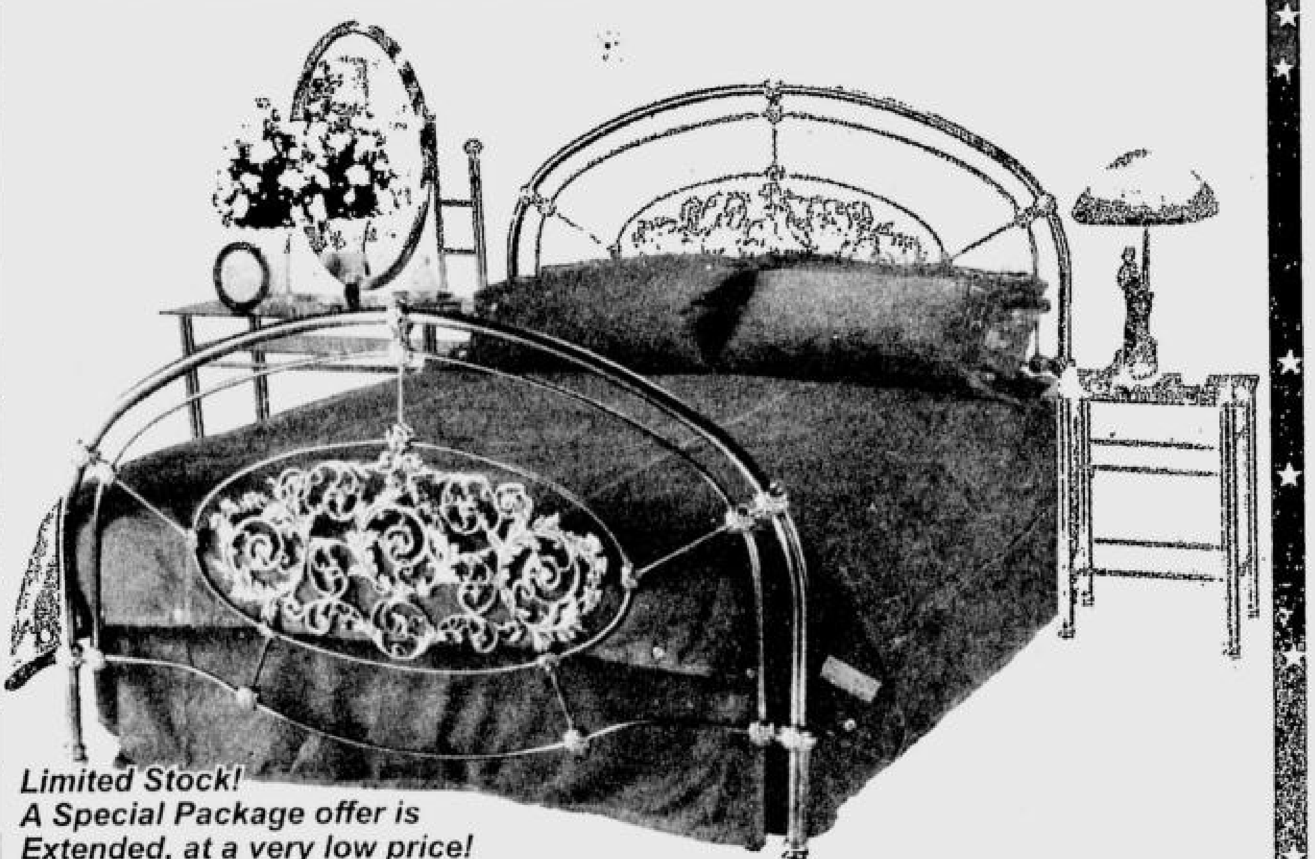
Bocobo Hall, Diliman, Quezon City
INSTITUTE ON THE REVISED SECURITIES ACT
7-10 March 2001
Malcolm Theater, U.P. College of Law
Diliman, Quezon City
Wednesday, 7 March 2001 (1:30-5:00 PM)
Topic : SECURITIES: A REVIEW
Lecturer : Atty. Jose Perpetuo Lotilla
Partner, Sycip Salazar Hernandez and Gatmaitan Law Offices
Topic : PROCEDURES AND PRACTICE AT THE SEC
Lecturer : Atty. Justina F. Callangan
Director, Corporate Finance Department
Securities and Exchange Commission
Thursday, 8 March 2001 (1:00-5:00 PM)
Topic : TENDER OFFER RULE AND BLOCK SALES
Lecturer : Atty. Tadeo Hilado
Partner, ACCRA Law Offices
Topic : NEW RULES ON CORPORATE REHABILITATION
Lecturer : Atty. Francis Ed. Lim
Partner, ACCRA Law Offices
Friday, 9 March 2001 (1:00-5:00 PM)
Topic : SELF-REGULATION ORGANIZATION OF MARKET PROFESSIONALS
Lecturer : Atty. Jose Aquino
Director, Market Regulation Department
Securities and Exchange Commission
Topic : INSIDER TRADING AND OTHER TRADING REGULATIONS
Lecturer : Atty. George Chelseden Carmona
AGILE, Securities and Exchange Commission
Saturday, 10 March 2001 (8:00-12:00 NN)
Topic : NEW RULES ON INTRA-CORPORATE DISPUTES AND OTHER CASES
Lecturer : Atty. Francis Ed. Lim
ACCRA Law Offices
REGISTRATION FEE: P1,200.00
(Inclusive of lecture materials, snacks and certificate)
For information/query:
Please call Tel. Nos. 434-9531 or 929-7137



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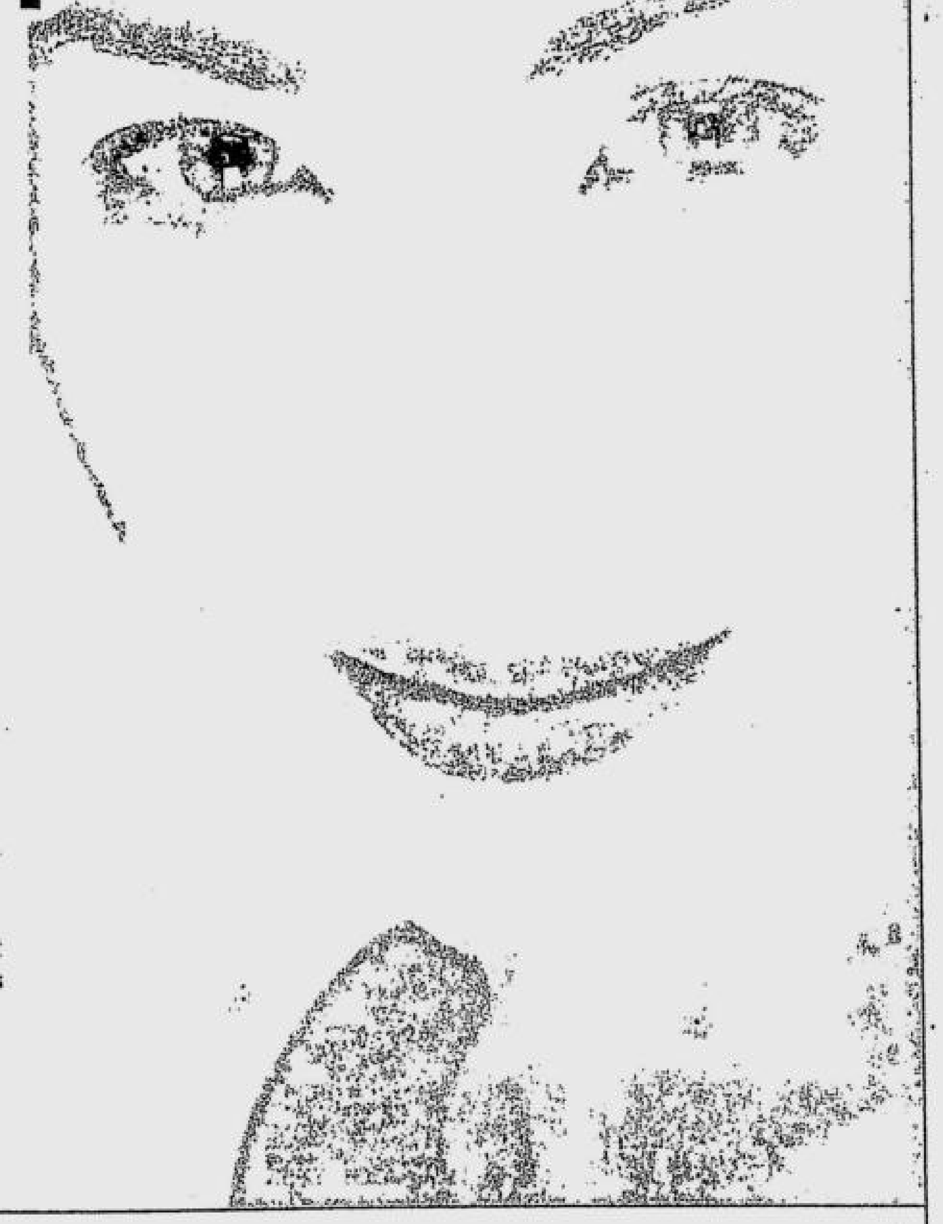

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US solon sees RP vets bill OK

BY JENNIE L. ILUSTRE

THIS year.

American Congressman Bob Filner made the assurance yesterday on his goal for the passage of a pension and health benefits bill for Filipino veterans who served under the United States military during World War II.

Filner, a Democrat from California, pledged to "talk to every single congressman in the 107th Congress" and to work for a hearing and a vote on The Filipino Veterans Equity Act (H.R. 491). There are 435 congressmen in the US Congress, with Republicans holding a nine-vote margin.

Filner, a member of the US House veterans affairs committee, made the assurance Thursday to some 50 veterans leaders and guests at a luncheon hosted in his honor by the Veterans Federation of the Philippines (VFP).

On learning about Filner's pledge, veteran Guillermo Rumingan told the INQUIRER: "I believe in the congressman and I remain optimistic, but on the US Congress passing this equity bill, I speak for many who say, I will believe it when I see it."

The equity bill was first filed in the early 90s, but it has faced opposition from the US Congress because of its cost. However, Filner has raised hopes, citing an expected $3.5 trillion budget surplus in ten years.

Noting that a lot of the veterans in the Philippines feel abandoned and forgotten by the US, Filner, the Democratic congressman from San Diego, California said, "I do not want to raise high expectations on the bill."

He said that correcting a 55-year-old injustice was "the moral, historical and political thing to do." He pledged to enlist his colleagues as co-sponsors and to join forces with majority leaders in the Republican-dominated US Congress.

Filner re-filed The Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2001 (House Resolution or H.R. 491) with Congressman Benjamin Gilman (Republican, New York) as the principal author on Feb. 7.

Retired Col. Emmanuel de Ocampo, VFP president, lauded Filner's determination to help "restore the dignity" of veterans who fought bravely during WW II.

"Over the years, Congressman Filner has won some, lost some in the US Congress. But he has persevered because he is a born fighter like all of us," he said.

But De Ocampo called for urgent action, saying that "time is running out" on the veterans, who are now mostly in their 80s.

"The US Congress has passed several bills recently, but only for those who have become American citizens residing in the US," he said. "Filipino veterans in the Philippines have always been forgotten."

Gloria refuses to sign papers for daughter

BY DONA Z. PAZZIBUGAN

'LULI' ARROYO: Diplomatic career put on hold

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo refuses to sign the appointment papers of her daughter Evangeline Lourdes "Luli" Arroyo who had qualified as a career diplomat, sources at the foreign office said.

Her papers and those of the two others who passed the highly competitive foreign service exams last December have been awaiting the President's signature since Feb. 1.

Sources said the appointment papers as foreign service officer IV were sent to Malacañang on Jan. 22.

Under the Foreign Service Act, the President has the sole authority to appoint foreign service officers.

Sources said Malacañang had sought the Department of Foreign Affairs' legal opinion if the foreign secretary could sign Arroyo's appointment instead.

Asked about this yesterday, Foreign Undersecretary Lauro Baja Jr. confirmed that the President has not signed the papers for the three new foreign service officers.

He said he saw no conflict of interest if Ms Macapagal would sign her daughter's appointment.

"There is no conflict. She passed the (foreign service) exams. She will be an asset to the department. (But) her appointment papers have to be signed by her mother," he said.

The ban against government appointments starts on March 30.

The young Arroyo has reportedly expressed desire to postpone her joining the foreign service for a year.

Under the law, those who passed the foreign service exams can defer their appointment for a year.

Only three out of the 322 who took last year's foreign service exams, involving oral and written exams, passed.

More than 3,000 took the foreign service pre-qualifying exams. But only 322 qualified for the written exams held in April and the oral exams held in December.

Based on their scores, the three who passed were journalist Noel Novicio, Arroyo, and DFA employee Myca Magnolia Maog.

Novicio, a journalism graduate of the University of the Philippines, had worked for the Manila office of Fuji Television Network, Inc.

Arroyo holds a master's degree in foreign service from Georgetown University and works as operations director for the Foundation for Information Technology, Education and Development.

Maog, who has a master's degree in tourism from UP, currently works for the DFA's Asia-Pacific Affairs office.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0060 Series of 2001

14 Westerners charged for fraud

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice yesterday filed charges against 14 foreigners for securities fraud.

Charged before the Makati City Regional Trial Court were 11 Britons, a Czech, a Canadian and an Italian, government lawyers said.

The group, who include three women, were arrested in Makati a week ago for allegedly running an illegal securities market designed to defraud stock investors.

Senior State Prosecutor Archimedez Manabat recommended a bail of P40,000 for each of the accused. If found guilty, they each face a maximum of 21 years in jail.

The justice department named the British suspects as Dionne Paulette McLarty, Jonathan Dodson, Bruce Darcy Gabor Kaposy, Grayson Buckley, James Fallon, Geoffrey Missenden, Mathew Carter, Derek Warner, Hanna Sutherland, Kevin Turpin, and Christopher Copeland.

The others are Helena Ciskova, a Czech, Italian Massimo Provenza, and Martin Patrick Totton of Canada.

The department said the group is also under investigation for alleged swindling.

Police, securities regulators and immigration agents arrested the 14 at their office, a firm called Mendez Prior Europe.

It said the government has received complaints that the company had allegedly swindled people overseas through stock transactions.

The company was operating without a license, the department added. Only Dodson, Kaposy, Totton and McLarty were able to produce passports.

The foreigners are accused of violating securities laws by "employing a scheme to defraud prospective buyers of securities through the use of telecommunication devices . . . and transacting and/or carrying out securities business in the Philippines without proper registration."

"Assessing the evidence on hand, we find the existence of a probable cause to indict all of the respondents for violation of Section 26 and 28 of Republic Act 8799, otherwise known as the Securities Regulation Code," Manabat said in his four-page resolution.

Details of the stock fraud scheme were not given. *Reports from Michael Lim-Ubac, AFP*

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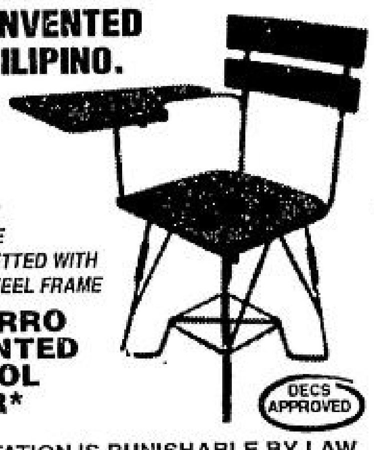

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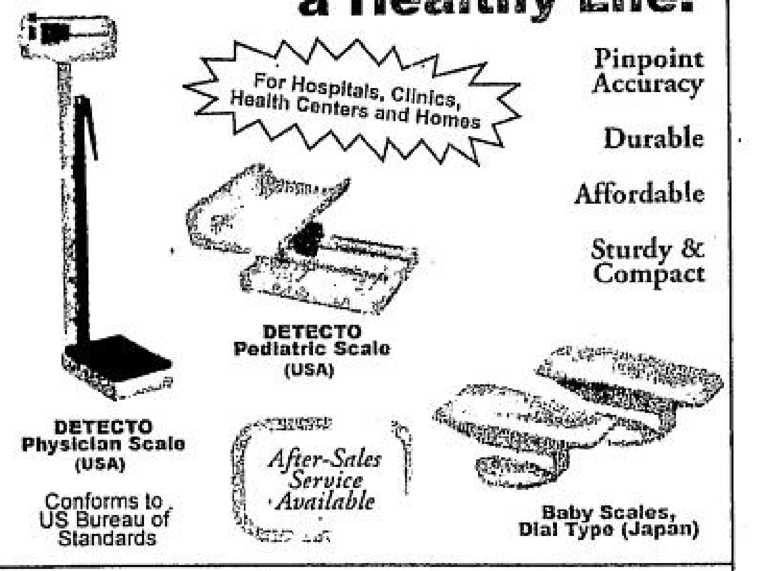

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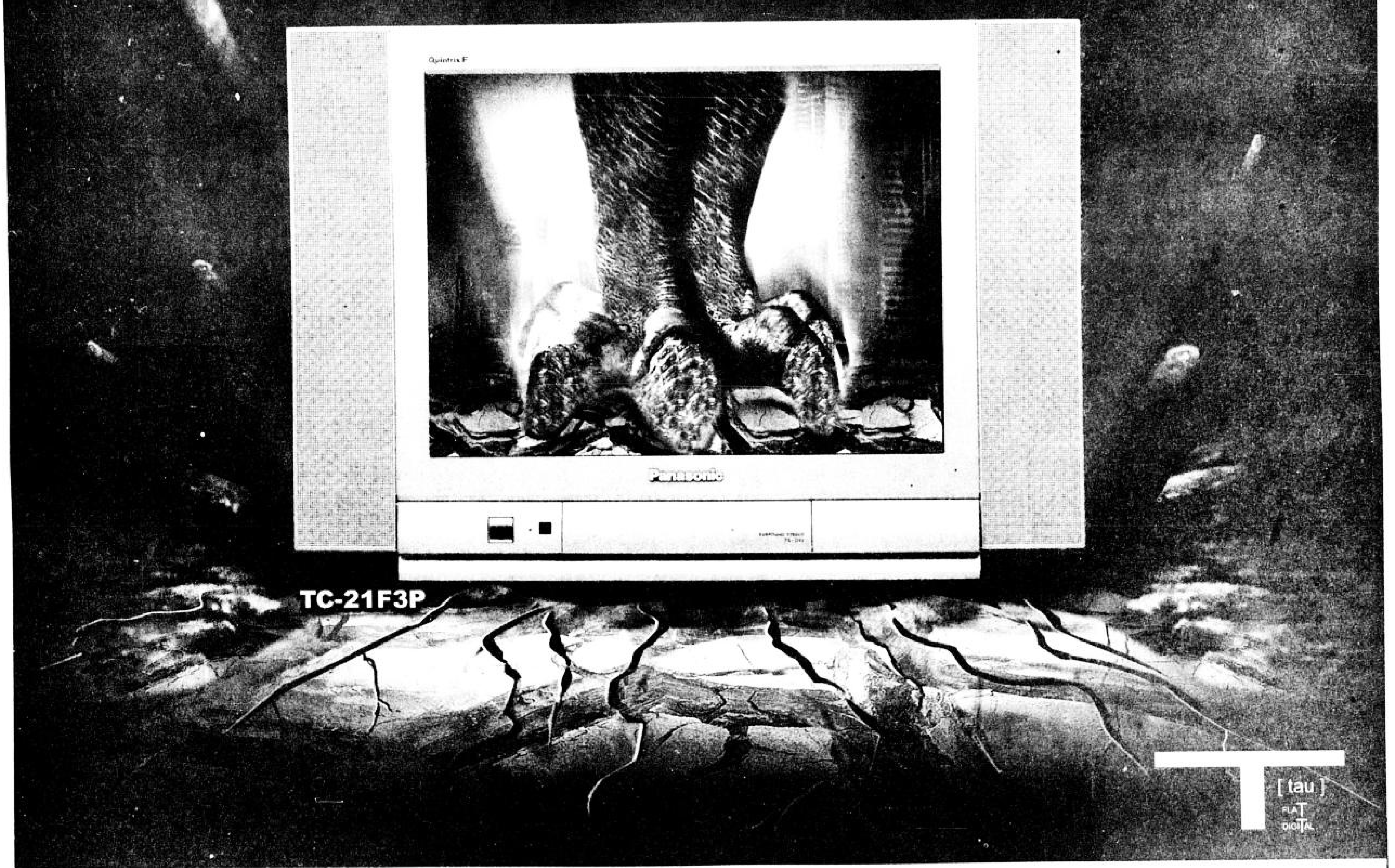

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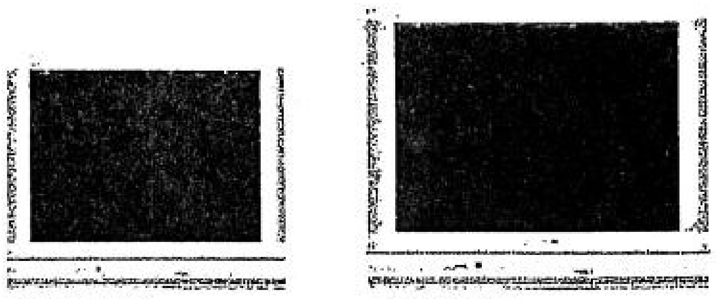

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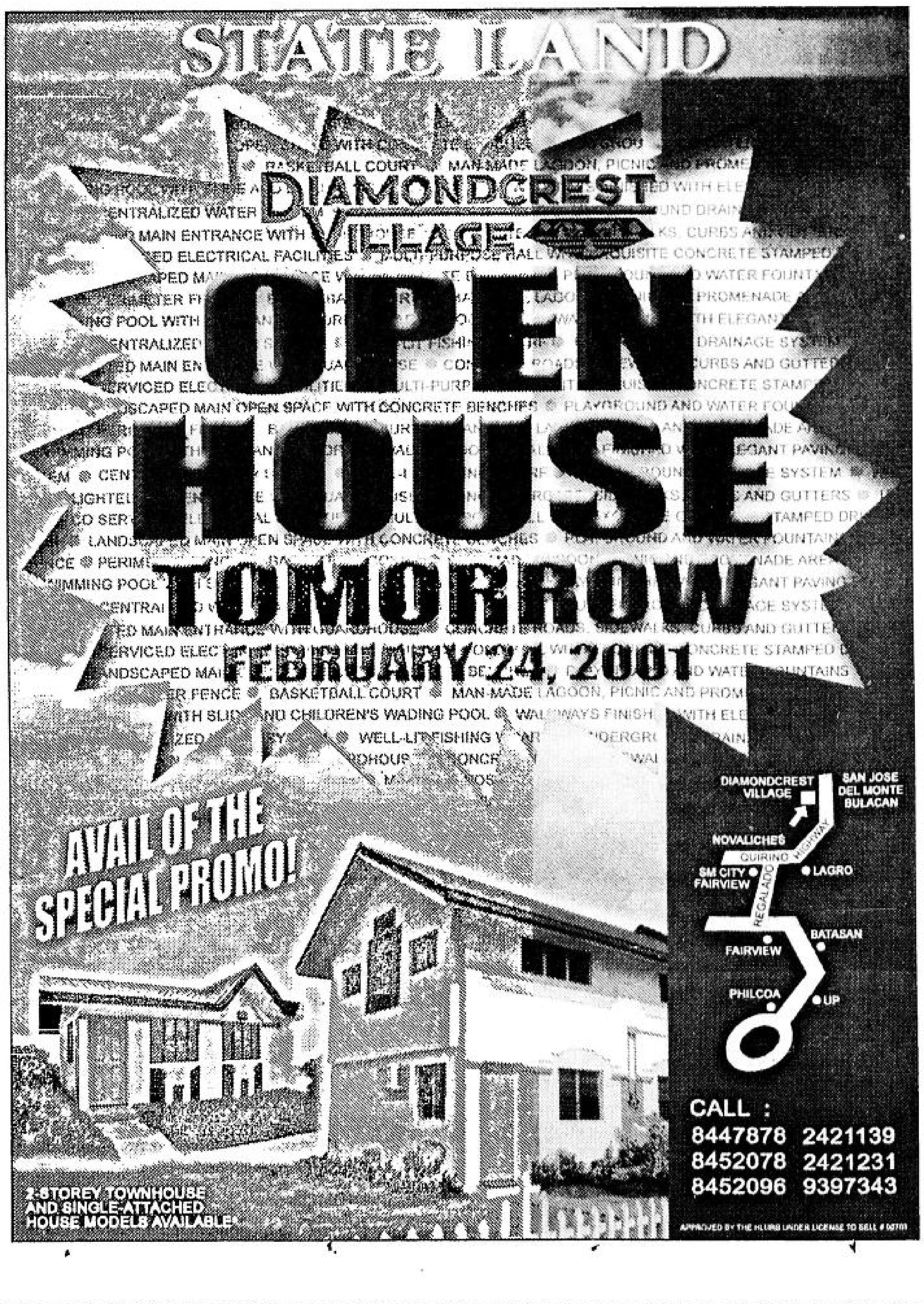

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KEYNOTE speaker, former President Fidel Ramos, at the international forum on the future of Asia in Osaka Thursday makes a point during a press conference on Thursday. AP

FVR says Edsa II part of independence struggle

OSAKA, Japan—The ouster of Joseph Estrada was another step in the Philippines' continuing struggle for independence, one that dates back centuries, former President Fidel Ramos yesterday said.

Like the first People Power revolution that toppled dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986, January's huge demonstrations demanding Estrada's resignation over corruption allegations have given the nation reason for hope.

"Now we have again brighter prospects for the future," Ramos told a news conference after delivering the keynote address at an international forum on the future of Asia.

He said there was no need for President Macagapal-Arroyo to call special elections because everyone acknowledged her legitimacy, from the people to the Supreme Court, legislature and international community.

Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. swore in Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to replace Estrada as he was packing to leave Malacañang at the height of Edsa People Power II on Jan. 20.

According to Ramos, the important thing was that the crowds of demonstrators and the national police and the military, in withdrawing their support for Estrada, acted on the basis of the Constitution, which says that the power of government emanates from the people.

Estrada, elected in a landslide as the champion of poor people, brought the country only a collapsing economy, declining peso, and renewed fighting in Mindanao.

"The current legal struggle being waged by Estrada is just designed to protect him from criminal prosecution with the fiction that he is the president of the Philippines and cannot be charged," Ramos said of the ex-President's claim that he only temporarily stood aside.

Asked if he had plans to return to the presidency himself, Ramos replied: "No more. Because I'm happy where I am as Mr. Citizen, which is higher than the President."

Ramos said Ms Macapagal would make a good President, stressing her years of experience in government service.

He cited the importance of education in a democracy "so people can pick good leaders and the military need not play a political role."

AP

Roco uncovers ₱4-M DECS scam

(From page A1)

1st e Bank and the City State Bank, both located in Paco, Manila.

Because the checks could theoretically not be cashed without the personal appearance of the teachers, the suspect allegedly sought the help of two female friends not connected with the department. The two were issued DECS identification cards, Checa said.

"The payroll officer would ask a colleague to make the IDs and then he would give these to his female friends," Checa said, adding the payroll officer could get away with the request because he has been in the service for a long time.

How it was done

The suspected payroll officer would make a list of non-existent teachers supposedly entitled to "supplementary paychecks," mark the list as coming from other divisions in the same region, and then forward the list, contained in a computer diskette, to the Internal Control Unit under the accounting division.

From April to June last year, the payroll officer also allegedly authorized double payments to legitimate teachers—and kept the second set of supplementary paychecks.

From July to December, the suspect allegedly drew up a list of fictitious teachers. The ghost teachers, the department suspects, have been paid claims since January last year.

Checa said supplementary paychecks are usually issued to public school teachers who are hired after the cut-off date for the printing of payroll records and paychecks, or to teachers who went on leave and whose return to work was not recorded immediately.

Trail

From the accounting control unit, the computer diskettes containing the anomalous lists were allegedly forwarded to the computer section, which then printed out the payroll and paychecks.

When the paychecks were released, they were supposed to be brought back to the accounting unit for counterchecking, to ensure that the names on the paychecks corresponded with the teachers on the payroll.

The anomalous checks, however, apparently never reached the accounting division, because the janitor tasked to carry the papers would already separate the legitimate checks and payroll from the irregular ones.

Collusion

"It appears that there is connivance/collusion between the payroll in charge (sic) and the janitor of the accounting section who acts as the receiving clerk for checks and payroll for pre-audit and review," Bravo said in an earlier memo to Undersecretary Ramon Bacani on Feb. 5.

An NBI team was scheduled yesterday to go to the DECS central office in Pasig City to start a preliminary investigation, but failed to show up.

Roco said he still believed that "95 percent of the people at DECS, including the teachers, are honest" and that the department was tainted by the unscrupulous acts of few people.

"The corrupt are the minority, and they're the ones we have to catch so we can clean up the department," Roco said, adding he would strive to go after what he called the "big snakes."

Posts for sale

The education secretary has had his hands full this week.

Eight teachers from Olongapo City showed up at Roco's office late Wednesday to complain that teaching positions were being "sold" in DECS regional offices.

The teachers, led by Rebecca Laranang, sought "a full-blown, unbiased investigation" of their complaints against a DECS division superintendent in Olongapo who has allegedly been collecting fees in exchange for posts and promotions.

The teachers alleged that the superintendent has been charging applicants a minimum of P10,000 for teaching positions or promotions in public schools.

In an affidavit, Laranang said she paid Dr. Perlita Basa P5,000 and a cell phone worth P5,170 so she could be promoted from a classroom teacher at the New Cabalan High School to school administrator of Sta. Rita High School in 1997.

Recruits

After her promotion, she said, Basa instructed her to "recruit" teachers and inform them of a P10,000 "placement fee" so they could acquire teaching positions "whether they are on the rank list or not."

"Because my townmates have been approaching me for assistance in getting teaching positions, I followed her instructions," Laranang said.

Laranang named teachers Magdalena Clemente, Esperanza Mallari, Gloria Bondoc, Vilma Florez, Gloria Sandoval, Edna Salenga, Elizabeth Valdeviezo, Teresita Valencia and Remedios Macapagal as those she recruited. They paid P10,000 for their positions despite their lack of qualifications, she said.

She said there were others who were afraid to come out against Basa for fear of retaliation from the superintendent, who she claimed has been harassing those who corroborate the allegations.

Only Clemente, Sandoval, Florez, Macapagal, Salenga, Valdeviezo and Valencia issued written statements corroborating the charges against Basa.

Sunshine test

"We will have to prosecute this," Roco said. "If you force someone to pay you for a position, that's extortion, so if what they're saying is true, then this is a case of extortion, and we will have to bring this to court."

He said he has instructed Undersecretary Bacani to "get this done" and assign the matter to the fiscal so the DECS could ferret out the truth.

Roco said another province in the Visayas had similar complaints, which the DECS would investigate immediately.

"This is the test of the sunshine principle," Roco said. "If we can shed light on these transactions, then maybe we could eliminate (the irregularities)."

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Lucio Tan airs plan to pump ₱30B into PAL

By Clarissa S. Batino

ENCOURAGED by the overall acceptance of the Macapagal administration, Taipan Lucio Tan said he is expanding Philippine Airlines, even as he expressed willingness to give up his controlling stake in Philippine National Bank.

Tan said PAL is preparing to boost its capital by P30 billion to finance a major re-fleeting program that would allow the country's flag carrier to return to overseas routes it had given up as a result of sagging finances.

PAL president Avelino Zapanta said airline management is reviewing its international routes to fit in additional flights and destinations.

Informed sources said PAL is searching for new routes, possibly in the US East Coast and another destination in Europe. "Definitely Europe and another point in US are on the pipeline," the source said.

"The capital would be used for our international routes, for our expansion program," Tan told reporters.

A PAL source said the airline is negotiating with a partner for its European route.

The airline had earlier announced that it would resume flights to Vancouver in April and to Saigon in June.

As for PNB, Tan said he would discuss the bank's ownership and financial status with Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo. He said he is open to selling his more than 70-percent stake in the bank jointly with the government's 16 percent.

The financial health of the country's fifth largest lender remains a question mark after Romulo stalled plans of the Bangko Sentral to start rehabilitating PNB.

The bank, which owes the government P25 billion, posted losses of about P1 billion last year. This despite a fresh P10 billion infusion by Tan last September which boosted his ownership stake in the bank from 46 percent and diluted the government's stake from 30.4 percent.

Tan, a friend of Estrada's and one of the biggest contributors to his campaign, reportedly shifted his loyalty to Ms Macapagal as early as November last year.

PAL insiders said the airline's re-fleeting and expansion program is actually a revival of the management's multi-billion-peso program before the 1997 financial crisis affected the company's bottom line and the 1999 labor program made matters worse.

In its latest financial report ending December 2000, PAL posted a net loss of P539.68 million versus losses of P156.27 million the previous year.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, February 23, 2001
7th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	*Sir 6:5-17*
Gospel:	*Mk 10:1-12*

Jesus left Capernaum and went to the province of Judea, beyond the Jordan River. Once more crowds gathered around him and once more he taught them, as he always did. Some (Pharisees came and) put him to the test with this question, "Is it right for a husband to divorce his wife?" He replied, "What law did Moses give you?" They answered, "Moses allowed us to write a certificate of dismissal in order to divorce."

Then Jesus said to them, "Moses wrote this law for you, because you are stubborn. But in the beginning of creation *God made them male and female,* and because of this, man *has to leave father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one body.* So they are no longer two but one body. Therefore let no one separate what God has joined."

When they were indoors at home, the disciples again asked him about this and he told them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against his wife, and the woman who divorces her husband and marries another also commits adultery."

Commentary:

No one, alone, could fully discover what human life is about. Not even the religious or celibates. We are bound to find it out only in various forms of community life - familial or otherwise. The Genesis image of a man who loses a part of him in his sleep and wakes up feeling lacking and incomplete is a beautiful parable that suggests that human life is always a quest for completion. Even a celibate like Jesus dares to tell us that marriage remains as the best model of completion, the lasting union of man and woman in marital commitment.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (CRIMES AGAINST CHASTITY)—Complex crime of forcible abduction with rape—As provided in Articles 342 and 335, in relation to Article 48, of the Revised Penal Code, the elements of this crime are: (1) that the person abducted is any woman, regardless of her age, civil status or reputation; (2) that she is taken against her will; (3) that the abduction is with lewd design; and (4) that the abducted woman is raped under any of the circumstances provided in Article 335. The evidence shows that, at knifepoint, accused-appellant forcibly took complainant from her parents' house and forced her to have sexual intercourse with him. In the event of conviction in cases of complex crimes, the penalty for the most serious crime should be imposed, the same to be applied in its maximum period. Forcible abduction is punishable by *reclusion temporal*, while rape is punishable by *reclusion perpetua*, unless it is committed with the use of deadly weapon, in which case the penalty is *reclusion perpetua* to death. Thus, in this case, it is the penalty for rape, which should be imposed, the same to be applied in its maximum period. [Citations omitted.] [*En Banc*, Justice Mendoza, People v. Talo, G.R. No. 125542, October 25, 2000]

Digest by R.B. Vera

New security adviser turns focus on Spratlys

NEW national security adviser Roilo Golez yesterday urged an aggressive diplomatic campaign to halt what he called China's continuing expansion in the South China Sea.

Golez said China's frequent incursions into Philippine-claimed areas in the region will be one of his main concerns because of their repercussions on the country's sovereignty and food stability.

Golez noted a recent increase in the number of Chinese fishing vessels at Scarborough Shoal, a rich fishing ground off the Philippine's western coast. China is contesting ownership of the shoal.

"We should use multilateral forums to tell the world what China is doing," Golez said in a radio interview. "Our strongest weapon against a big nation like China is noise."

Macapagal appointed Golez, a member of the House of Representatives, national security adviser on Tuesday.

Next week, Cabinet Cluster E on national security will convene to discuss the increased Chinese Foreign Undersecretary Lauro Baja Jr. said Golez "was entitled to make such statements" but Cabinet Cluster E has yet to agree "on what to say."

"The focus now is to think of measures to enhance peace and security in the area and other confidence building measures," Baja said when asked for his reaction to Golez's proposal.

Baja said Manila is still working with Beijing for the latter to adopt the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea, which was adopted by Asean two years ago.

The Code prohibits new occupation and enjoins the nations claiming the Spratlys to settle the dispute peacefully.

An official of the Chinese Embassy said they were "surprised" by Golez's pronouncements.

Chen Te Hei, head of the Embassy's political section, said the two governments have agreed to settle the Spratlys dispute peacefully.

"I don't think we have any problems because our governments have agreed on a peaceful negotiation to settle the dispute," he said. ***Dona Z. Pazzibugan, with a report from AP***

750 out of 1,342 pass doctor's exams

A TOTAL of 750 out of 1,342 passed the Physician Licensure Examination given by the Board of Medicine in the cities of Manila and Cebu this February 2001, Commissioner Alfonso G. Abad, acting chair of the Professional Regulation Commission, announced yesterday.

The successful examinees who garnered the ten highest places are: 1. Rey Francisco Arcenas, 86.50; 2. Dennis Ivan Uson Bravo, 85.67; 3. Benjan Veral Tandih, 85.58; 4. William Dy Chuasuan Jr., 85.33; 5. Anthony Galbis Mendiola, 84.83; 6. Oliver Gerald Mendiola Severino, 83.42; 7. Gaudencio Tan Ligutom III, Elmer Interior Esguerra, 83.00; 8. Rhea Infante Lansangan, 82.58; 9. Arlene Tatoy Fajardo, Cherry Yong Cortez, 82.50; 10. Jacqueline Marie Viado Pang, Lawrence Selda Miravite, 82.42.

The results were released two (2) days after the last day of examination.

The Board of Medicine who gave the licensure examination was headed by Dr. Rodolfo P. de Guzman, chair with Dr. Edgardo T. Fernando, Dr. Jose S. Ramirez, Dr. Juanito B. Billote, Dr. Ruben R. Policarpio and Dr. Ricardo D. Fulgenio II as members.

The oathtaking ceremony of the successful examinees will be held before the Board on March 11, 2001 at 1:30 p.m. at the Grand Ballroom of the Manila Midtown Hotel in Ermita, Manila.

Registration for the issuance of certificate of registration/professional license will start on Feb. 28, 2001 until March 7, 2001.

See complete list of those who passed the exams at www.Inquirer.net

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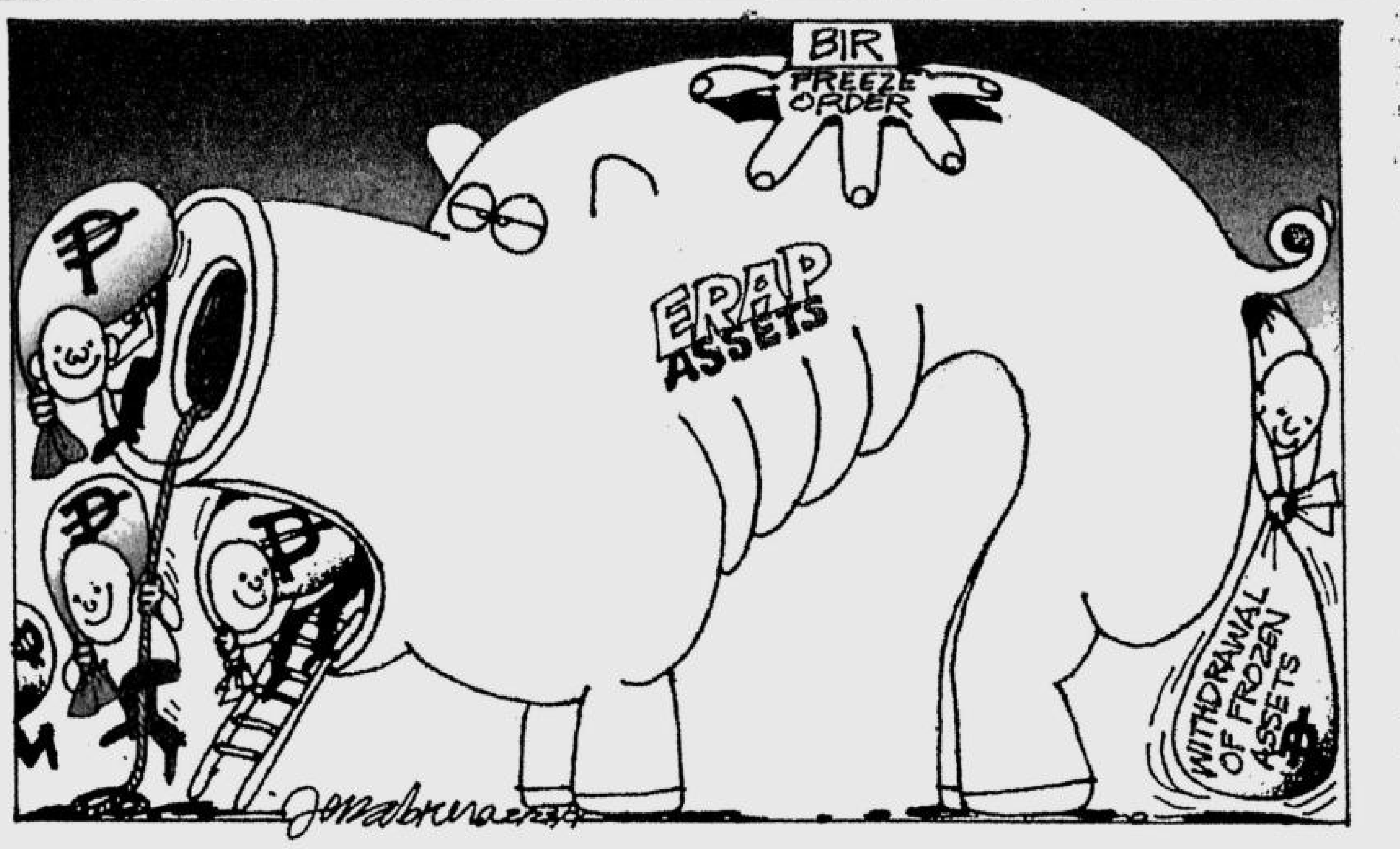


Gagged

EDITORIAL

IN COUNTRIES such as the United States, where a jury decides on the guilt or innocence of an accused, its members are sequestered to ensure that their decision will not be influenced by what they read in newspapers or hear on radio or television as well as from friends and relatives. It's quite a fair rule, considering that those who serve in the jury are ordinary people who generally know very little law.

Here where justices and judges are the arbiters of a man's guilt or innocence, everybody else can't discuss cases in public under pain of contempt. The idea is to keep those who are steeped in the law and who are sworn to dispense impartial justice from swallowing somebody's two cents' worth of legal opinion. This is called the rule on *sub judice*, and it doesn't speak too highly of the discipline, judgment and discernment of the men and women who sit on the bench. For if a justice or judge can be swayed by the views of any Tom, Dick or Harry, then he shouldn't tarry a minute longer in the judiciary.

Thus, it comes as a bit of disappointment that the Supreme Court, which is gaining a reputation for a more activist orientation, has decided to apply the rule in the cases against deposed President Joseph Estrada. Acting on the petition of Estrada's lawyer Rene Saguisag, the Court on Tuesday ordered "the parties and especially their legal counsel...to refrain from making any comment or discussing in public the merits of the cases at bar." Saguisag had earlier asked the Court to issue a gag order on Ombudsman Aniano Desierto, saying the anti-graft prosecutor "offend(ed) the equal protection clause" with his statements calling Estrada "the former president" and accusing him of having amassed ill-gotten wealth.

It's a futile and empty move really. For other than Estrada himself and his rabid supporters like Saguisag, everyone refers to the fallen leader as "the former president." And as regards his ill-gotten wealth, it has been the talk of the town, if not of the whole world, ever since Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson accused Estrada of accepting bribes from *jueteng* lords and skimming off part of the excise taxes on tobacco. Desierto can be exiled to a desert in Africa, but there's no stopping people from talking about the fabulous mansions of Estrada's mistresses and the billions he and they stashed away in practically every bank around. So how does Saguisag propose to isolate the gullible justices from such sordid and shocking revelations about his client?

But that's the law, we suppose, and the Court had to uphold it even if all it would achieve was to send a faint signal that it was giving Estrada a sporting chance. To paraphrase that Latin often quoted by lawyers: Silly lex, sed lex.

There's a more positive way of looking at the gag order, however. For the next few weeks at least, Filipinos may not need to bear with Desierto's constant presence on television and remember that once he had served like Estrada's good and faithful servant. Deprived of a forum from which he can demonstrate his newfound zeal in hounding Estrada, maybe he can put more time into building a really strong case against the former president. As Speaker Feliciano Belmonte put it, "Talking too much won't do him any good. He would just be telegraphing his punches."

The Office of the Ombudsman has a roomful of records to go over and dozens of witnesses to interview. More pieces of evidence are coming in as banks obey the subpoenas being issued to produce documents covering the accounts of Estrada and his mistresses. A lot still needs to done to sew up the cases against Estrada as well as to trace the billions he and his mistresses withdrew from several accounts as his presidency tottered. In other words, there's more than enough work to keep occupied any prosecutor who is really bent on sending Estrada to jail.

Desierto doesn't need to argue his case before the people; they have already judged Estrada guilty. What he must do is win those cases in court.

A better and cheaper way to perform heart surgery

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

HERE'S good news for patients with coronary artery disease who must undergo heart bypass surgery to survive. It is a new development in heart surgery called "beating heart surgery," so called because surgeons perform the surgery while the patient's heart is beating. The conventional way was to stop the beating of the heart—the patient is technically dead—while the surgeons perform the bypass surgery.

I attended a health forum last Tuesday sponsored by the College of Physicians and the Mirror Weekly, a health magazine, where three doctors, cardiologist Esperanza Cabral, former head of the Philippine Heart Center; heart surgeon Dr. Rommel Cariño; and anesthesiologist Dr. Veronica Durante explained the new procedure.

You see, in the conventional way, it is necessary to stop the beating of the heart, for how can the surgeons suture the grafts to the diseased coronary arteries when the heart is moving, pumping blood from 60 to 70 times a minute? So a drug is injected into the heart muscle to stop its pumping action. A heart-lung machine attached to the main artery and vein take over the job of the heart and lungs in cleansing the blood and pumping it to all parts of the body. When the doctors are finished with the operation, the heart is restarted with an electric shock. Sometimes the heart fails to start, like a car with a strong battery but defective ignition or fuel systems, and the patient remains dead.

The "beating heart surgery" avoids that risk. Moreover, complications common in the conventional way like strokes and acute respiratory syndrome (water in the lungs) are avoided. The patient's recovery period is shorter. Furthermore, the "beating heart surgery" is cheaper by about P100,000 than the conventional way (average cost: P500,000) because the use of a heart-lung machine is dispensed with.

This breakthrough in heart surgery is achieved with the invention of a "stabilizer" which is like a clamp that holds the heart steady, at least that part where the coronary artery to be bypassed is located. The rest of the heart continues moving, but that part where the graft will be sutured to the artery is "stabilized" while the operation goes on. When that part is finished, the "stabilizer" is moved to the next target artery, and the procedure is repeated.

The doctors also cautioned against alternative and unproven treatments for heart disease, especially "chelation" therapy which is a very expensive treatment in which a drug is injected to a patient's bloodstream regularly. The drug is supposed to cleanse the arteries of cholesterol and calcium deposits. Extensive studies on patients have shown the claims to be false, they said.

The weekly breakfast Health Forum at Annabel's on Tomas Morato in Quezon City, by the way, is very informative, especially for laymen who can ask questions to clarify medical and health issues. It is a good source of stories for all journalists, even if they're not health or science reporters.

* * *

Quezon City Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. told me last weekend, commenting on an item here about traffic in the Quezon Memorial Circle, (PDI, 2/16/01) that he has asked for the removal of the recently installed traffic signals on the six intersections in the Circle. Reason: They are unnecessary and serve only to impede, instead of enhance, the smooth flow of traffic. Other intersections in the city need them and they should be transferred there. (Example: the nearby junction of Commonwealth Avenue and Tandang Sora, where traffic is always terrible.)

This is the situation in the Circle. Six main streets (Commonwealth, Visayas, North, Quezon, East and Kalayaan) empty into the Quezon Circle, also known as the Elliptical Road. When that road was two-way, these intersections were chokepoints because of the vehicles going in different directions. When it was made one-way—as all rotundas should be—traffic moved faster. Vehicles entering and exiting the Circle merely turned right. Gaps were cut through the center island to allow vehicles to enter or exit the inner lanes. The only remaining chokepoint was the junction with Visayas Avenue because the police inexplicably placed a steel barrier across the gap in the center island there to prevent vehicles from entering the inner lanes. Vehicles on the outer lanes therefore, confronted with the many vehicles coming out of Visayas Avenue, cannot swerve here to avoid the traffic jam. Result: Traffic backs up all the way to Commonwealth.

The solution was simply to remove that barrier. Instead, however, the Traffic Management Bureau placed expensive traffic signals on all six intersections—not because they're necessary but so that the suppliers can sell more of the costly traffic signals. The barrier across Visayas Avenue was removed but more barriers were placed on the gaps in the center island. Result: Instead of moving smoothly, traffic now moves in fits and starts, as vehicles have to stop at all intersections. Even vehicles in the inner lanes have to stop when they didn't have to. Vehicles cannot swerve to the inner lanes to avoid jams in the outer lanes.

Solution: Remove those traffic signals as Mayor Mathay asked, or at least turn them off. Then remove all the steel barriers across the gaps in the center island.

The traffic mess in Metro Manila is caused not only by unruly drivers but also by lazy traffic enforcers who do not know traffic rules, and by a Traffic Management Bureau which does not know what it is doing.

The clueless sphinx

WINDMILLS

Jerry Barican

LIKE motherhood, everyone is in favor of peace. The means may be diametrically opposite but the destination is professedly the same. One man's "Peace Through Strength" is another's "Peace Through Unilateral Disarmament."

That touchy-feely approach has historically haunted our own national peace policy. The Estrada administration had a hard-line approach, especially toward the MILF secessionist problem, but it was intuitive rather than rational. It was rarely the product of difficult but deliberate choices picked from a menu of possibilities but rather a seat-of-the-pants, tip-of-the-fingers style of decision-making.

Despite that, it got some things right. Unless peace is always equivalent to surrender, there must be a role for the military in diplomacy. Peace talks are useful only if both parties are genuinely committed to it. Despite the common perception, the '20s and '30s were not "Peacetime" but a period of rearmament and preparation for World War II.

Consequently, the Estrada administration approached the talks with the MILF under the assumption that the MILF was using the ceasefire to build up military strength for an inevitable confrontation with the military.

It was probably right in that. The expansion of MILF camps flying the secessionist flag, the surreptitious diversion of economic assistance funds to the building of military bunkers, and the upgrade in numbers and quality of weaponry suggested that the only question left about the "ceasefire" was which side would secure the military advantage by breaking it first.

In that case, the military took the initiative. Had the MILF taken the initiative some years later, it would have been debatable whether the military could contain it, or at the least how costly in lives that would be. Since neither side really wanted peace, war came. Since the AFP took the initiative, it came sooner rather than later. Consequently, it "won."

But as Zhou Enlai would famously say when discussing a political problem, we must begin with principles. Those were never thoroughly sorted out by the past administration. Many questions were not only unanswered but were unasked. Will winning the war conventionally end the insurgency? What happens if the resort of a defeated MILF is to guerrilla warfare or worse, to terrorism?

Is the MILF better dealt with as a united group or broken up politically and militarily? What can you offer at peace talks that have not already been offered the MNLF? Will we have two ARMMs? Three? What is our minimum political position? How far can you negotiate without risking a serious Christian backlash? How do these negotiations relate to the MNLF agreements? What is the MILF's attitude and minimum position?

Without policy answers to these kinds of hard questions approved by the highest government organs, we are merely negotiating press releases and public relations headlines. We are sending "negotiators" to attend meetings with nothing substantial to say, like a sphinx with many riddles but not a single clue.

The new administration now seems to be addressing the peace talks from the same intuitive approach, albeit from the opposite end. By carrying out a unilateral ceasefire, it is sending a message that it is serious about negotiations.

But unless it also has a policy framework for peace talks, none of which it has revealed, this attempt will prove ultimately as futile as past attempts at negotiations. A unilateral ceasefire is an invitation to political and military disaster unless there is a recognition that patience and goodwill are not inexhaustible and unless the government understands its own approach to peace. In the absence of clear thinking, Somo (suspension of military operations) is not so much a policy as a slogan.

But how can the government even enunciate a policy when many of the principal advisers who make up our national security establishment are not even in place? There is no regular defense secretary. The new security adviser was appointed after the ceasefire policy was announced and presumably didn't have a hand in it. Besides, his declared priority is the anti-drug campaign, not the MILF.

The AFP chief-of-staff-to-be, whoever he may be, is still busy lobbying to be appointed. The Vice President and foreign secretary, busy as campaign manager for Lakas, can't have much time to debate these matters exhaustively in Cabinet Cluster E meetings. It is entirely unclear whether a presidential peace process adviser is even in place.

Before we proceed further, it would be reassuring if we knew that decisions were being made deliberately. The "sentence first, verdict later" principle of the Queen of Hearts in "Alice In Wonderland" is no way to run a peace process. The consequences of a mistake in either direction—too militaristic an approach or too weak a one—can be appalling for Mindanao and the rest of the country. The new administration should not repeat the mistakes of the old one, albeit from the opposite point of view.

None of that negates the urgent need for peace talks or to discover more creative ways of finding a solution to this centuries-old conflict in the South. But in a struggle like this, it isn't enough to win hearts. We've also got to win minds. Negotiation means putting yourself in the other person's place and thinking of an argument that will be convincing. When the sphinx finally spoke, it had something intelligent to say.

Good news country

COMMENTARY

Sylvia L. Mayuga

PUERTO PRINCESA—No doubt about it. Palawan, our last ecological frontier, is good news country. Yes, despite the political smudge on a three-term record as swashbuckler for the environment that Edward Hagedorn, Puerto Princesa's outgoing mayor, left in the national eye. Why did he choose to be with Erap to his last ignominious moment in Malacañang? Well, it had to do with Puerto's unreleased IRA without which casual city employees could not be paid for four months.

That's the good news? No, just its background on a drive through downtown Puerto after 13 years. There are more buildings but the shady ancient acacias are still there. The market is much bigger now—with at least eight kinds of rice, gourmet upland varieties among them, at popular prices—but gone are the illegally traded cockatoos, peacocks, mynahs, flying lemurs of virgin forests. Ecologists were fighting an uphill battle against their multimillion-peso smuggling when I was last here. No way you can slip them out now except by high-risk clandestine means.

But, tell me, why do I feel rather at sea as we drive around town looking for giant crabs worth their weight in gold in Manila? *Aha! Walang basura!* There are not that many garbage bins in sight so what's the secret? Turns out to be a lady called Ellen Marcelo-Hagedorn, the mayor's wife who launched Oplan Linis on his first term in 1992. Since 1993, Puerto Princesa would hold the title of cleanest city in the Philippines so consistently it had to be shoved out of the running as a Hall of Famer.

Oplan Linis began in Puerto's park at four in the morning nine years ago with NGOs, government agencies and the military—and has been going on ever since. When initial volunteer enthusiasm faded, Mrs. Mayor switched to student power complemented by an information network and 60 city street sweepers. "*Mas madaling na-internalize ng mga bata,*" says this city mother whose young volunteers effected even the fining of casual flickers of cigarette butts.

On a campaign rooted in the paradigm shift of managing one's own garbage, the list of arrestees excluded no one. Two of the first arrests were of a former NFA manager in the middle of an 18,000-strong Alay Lakad rally and Mayor Hagedorn himself in a meeting at home. Eventually joining them was Sen. Rodolfo Biazon on a visit to Puerto, chased by a student volunteer and fined in his hotel.

Environmental sensibility is a way of life in Puerto Princesa today, a worthy staging area for travelers en route to the Unesco World Heritage Site in St. Paul's underground river system and its surrounding virgin forest, the archaeological jewel of the Tabon Caves, or just a lazy loll on the mangrove-lined white sand beaches off Honda Bay, a half-hour out of the city. Another Ellen Hagedorn touch on the way—caballero trees that, come May, will be a flaming arch down the southbound road.

Pioneering Manila-based environmentalists who harnessed vision, will and global contacts in the historic Palawan Integrated Area Development Plan circa the late '70s and early '80s, followed by a Strategic Environment Plan (SEP) written into law, are now harvesting richly in Palawan. Not only does this province give flesh to its Council for Sustainable Development by militant implementation of the SEP (no more mining or logging concessions, no to cement plants). The ECCs now required of all major beach resorts have also become a live-wire part of local lingo.

That means that the people know that absolutely no mangroves are to be cut, island water is not to be overdrawn, watershed management must be worked into its plans, sewerage must be managed with state-of-the-art treatment plants and an Environmental Guarantee Fund must be laid aside by the developer for any damage created. And yes, there must be social acceptability, i.e., inhabitants must consent to the entry of wealthy outside developers into their ecosystem.

Theory becomes fact as one swirls with trusting angel fish, sergeant fish, silvery *dilis* et al. darting out of coral beds to snap at the moist bread crumbs in one's hand off the Dos Palmas Beach Resort. But naturally. Both their mangrove nurseries and coral bed homes are intact and fiercely protected off the resort's Isla Mais. No less than a marine engineer guides you to their most thickly populated areas, ticking off their names with an authoritative grin. It's all part of a new system born out of years of scientific research, enlightened new laws, informed political will and love for the wealth and mystery of the natural world.

Capping the good news is an accidental encounter with Delfin Ganapin, Palaweño on his mother's side and team leader of the scientists who wrote a development plan for our last frontier. He has since written the SEP law and the EIA law, served as environment undersecretary in high-achievement years under Cory Aquino and Fidel Ramos, and was in Palawan for a community-based integrated resource management seminar. He is also part of the short list for environment secretary. Social justice based on ancient beauty, joy and vision on our last frontier are within this man's grasp. Details to follow.

Educating voters

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

LAST Wednesday, the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) hosted a briefing for artists, media people, professionals, volunteers and other "civil society" types on a planned voter education and awareness campaign. Namfrel national coordinator Bill Luz explained that they had begun talks last year with the "creatives" of four advertising agencies (who were all working pro bono) until they were interrupted by history. Now playing catch-up, with just over two months to go before election day, they hope to have the voter education ads off and running before the populace is swamped with candidates' ads.

Among the more memorable concepts were a series of visuals on familiar sights these days: huge billboards at public works projects proclaiming each to be the "project" of Congressman So-and-So or Mayor This-and-That, while voice-overs declare that these are not "gifts" of the politicians to the people, but rather the fruits of taxpayers' money.

In another, a very pregnant mother is shown thinking aloud about her choices of candidates, and every time she chooses a candidate based on "looks," "popularity" or catchy slogans, the child inside her womb kicks her. A voice-over then intones: "Vote wisely because your vote affects your child's future." Another story-board (acted out by the creative) shows a housewife buying chicken at the wet market, smelling the meat, scrutinizing its crevices, pinching and poking to check for freshness. The announcer says: "If only you were as careful in choosing the candidates to vote for."

To the suggestion that what is needed these days is a "negative" campaign, one creative director came up with an instant concept—a cook trimming a *camote* of its rotten parts, with a voice-over reminding the public "not to vote for rotten candidates and vote only for those who are clean."

Other concepts touched on vote-buying, with one ad reminding the voter that "*Mahalaga ang boto mo, hindi may halaga* (Your vote is valuable, it does not have a price)."

* * *

THOUGH crafted by four different ad agencies, the campaign has a single tagline: "*Matuto. Bantayan ang boto. Umasenso* (Learn. Guard your vote. Get ahead.)"

There was a lengthy discussion on the proposed "action point," which was for the voters to study the available choices carefully and talk to people they respect, including teachers and church people. Civil society leaders wanted the action point to center rather on groups of people getting together, discussing their choices and making decisions. Others raised the point that the term "church people" might alienate Muslims and non-Christians. Still others brought up the problematic issue of some denominations actually dictating electoral choices to their members, a practice that shouldn't be encouraged.

The proposed campaign also uses a quick and handy reference that voters can use in choosing who to vote for. "*Tama*" stands for qualities deemed desirable in a public servant, including being trustworthy, competent, with no involvement in corruption or scandal. "*Mali*" stands for undesirable traits, including dishonesty, use of "guns, goons and gold," and betraying the people's trust.

A subsequent series of ads will focus on how to vote and how to guard the sanctity of the ballot.

* * *

I HAD only one question to raise at the briefing. What was the Commission on Elections (Comelec) doing in the meantime? Less than 90 days before election day, why aren't we seeing a concerted voter information and education campaign by the Comelec?

I well remember the series of ads featuring Danny Javier as "Pidro" the Pinoy Everyman, warning against *trapos* and tricksters who try to buy people's votes. Funny and effective, they went a long way toward raising voters' awareness and sense of responsibility. Is the present Comelec capable of mounting an equally creative and effective campaign?

The silence on the party-list system is particularly worrisome. In 1998, the party-list groups were treated like second-class contenders, *saling pusa* in the voting. Many voters, not knowing what the party-list vote was all about, simply left the slot blank. So many others, no thanks to a confusing explanation on the ballot, voided their ballots by writing down the name of the sector (instead of the party) they wished to vote for.

Some time last year, I met former Comelec Chair Harriet Demetriou at a party and told her that I hoped the poll body would start a public education drive on the party-list system long before the elections, precisely to avoid the confusion that marginalized the party-list groups. At that time, Demetriou said they were waiting for the Supreme Court to issue its decision on a petition questioning a dubious Comelec decision on the qualified party-list groups. But the Supreme Court has long issued that decision, Demetriou has retired and left the poll body, and still there is not a scrap of information from the Comelec to guide the electorate on the party-list system.

* * *

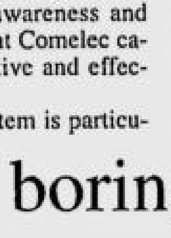
WHICH brings me to the outcry being raised about some of the organizations that have been accredited for participation under the party-list system. The party-list system of representation was conceived as a means of "equalizing" opportunities for political participation of marginalized and disadvantaged groups and sectors. But somewhere along the way toward the passage of the enabling law, wires got crossed and what we have today is a mish-mash of political parties, sectoral and multi-sectoral organizations, as well as vested interest groups.

For instance, the law allows the major political parties to participate in the party-list system, though I cannot for the life of me imagine how the Lakas party-list could be in the same standing as, say, a party-list group of the disabled. And how on earth could business groups, contractors and even councilors be equally marginalized as peasants, laborers and women?

The law, of course, allowed this bastardization of a noble concept. But the Comelec could at least have exercised better judgement in accrediting the participating groups. On May 14, voters should at least keep in mind what the party-list system is all about.

History is not boring

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

PEOPLE who complain that history is boring must have been cursed with either a dull teacher or a dim textbook or both in their formative years. Fault-finding often ends up like the eternal question about the chicken and the egg, whose fault is it? Textbook? Teacher? Student? From experience, I know that historical research can be long, hard and monotonous. History becomes boring when historians communicate their boredom when writing or teaching. Since history is punctuated by peaks, the sensitive historian can work around the occasional high during research resulting in work that communicates enthusiasm and draws the reader in.

Toward the end of my five-month Fulbright research grant on American pioneers in Philippine archaeology, I could not even fake enthusiasm for documentation on a parade of Philippine stone age tools, earthenware and Oriental ceramics. These archaeological artifacts had a story but were mute unlike historical narratives. I realized then I was more of a historian than an anthropologist. During one dry spell at the Field Museum of Natural History, the curator for Asian archaeology and ethnology, Dr. Benet Bronson, pulled me from the library and walked me to a bronze plaque that reads, "In remembrance of William Jones, Ph.D. Ethnologist who was assassinated March 29, 1909 while making ethnological investigations for Field Museum among the Ilongots of the Philippine Islands." After a few seconds of reverent silence in this place of pilgrimage I reacted to the term "assassinated." It left a bad taste in the mouth. Dr. Bronson replied in jest, "If you are mugged and killed in downtown Chicago, a similar memorial will probably be put up in the Philippines." I can see it now, "*Sa alaala ni Ambeth R. Ocampo, historiador, pinatay ng mga masamang loob habang nagsasaliksik ukol sa kasaysayan ng Pilipinas sa Chicago, Illinois.*" My curiosity aroused, I dug up the files on William Jones including his photograph and that of his tombstone in Echague that reads, "William Jones, Ph.D. Born in Oklahoma, USA March 28, 1871, killed at Dumobato March 28, 1909. A student of the Indian and Filipino races and a friend of all primitive peoples." Was he?

After 16 months of research in the land of the Ilongots, Jones prepared for a return to the United States to marry his fiancée. His specimens were all packed in crates ready for shipment to the Field Museum, but first he had to transport these down the Cagayan River on bamboo rafts or *balsas* from Dumobato to Echague and from here to Manila. Despite repeated promises, the *balsas* came late and in insufficient numbers leading Jones to scold the Ilongots. His patience was thin, he had screamed at Ilongots before, but the last straw, I think, was when he grabbed the respected elder, Takadan, by the arm and threatened to detain him until the required *balsas* arrived. On April 3, 1909 [the March 28 date of Jones' death is wrong because his last diary entry was dated April 21] three men approached Jones in a friendly manner to discuss the *balsas*. Without warning, Palidat struck him on the head over the left eye with a bolo, Magueng pierced his right arm with a spear, and Gacad speared him in the abdomen. Jones pulled out his revolver, fired 11 shots and the Ilongots ran. He took medicine for his wounds, and even bandaged the hand of his assistant, Romano, who fended off one of Palidat's bolo blows. As a gesture of thanks Jones gifted Romano with his wristwatch and left instructions on the preservation of his notes and specimens. Jones died four hours later.

All three murderers were caught and sentenced to death, but the Supreme Court reduced the punishment to 17 years and four months imprisonment plus P1,000 indemnity to Jones' heirs. The Supreme Court , "held as an extenuating circumstance, the fact that the descendants were members of a wild tribe, ignorant of the law and civilization and as such not criminally responsible, in the same degree as would be persons of a higher order of intelligence." PC Capt. G.B. Bowers, who was in charge of the case explained, "If I were permitted an opinion I should say that it was but a 'call of the wild' for within the make-up of every savage there is a desire to destroy, to kill." While the murderers were being transferred to the Bilibid Prisons in Manila ,they "escaped" under PC custody. Their leg irons were loosened to make them walk faster! In retaliation, PC Lt. Wilfrid Turnbull ordered the houses of Ilongots in the area of the Jones murder torched, leading the Ilongots to turn against their fellow Ilongots. The community of the murderers was blamed, Ilongot heads were taken by rival Ilongots and delivered to the PC which looked the other way.

When all the horrifying details are spun into a story we see the common threads: murder, race, head-hunting, US pacification of "wild tribes." The twist in this story is that Jones was the first American Indian with a Ph.D. in anthropology. While I am sorry about what happened, I reflect on Jones' ethnic background and ask, was he killed because he was, by academic and professional training, so Americanized he forgot his Indian roots? If he had remembered what it was like to be born "primitive" to be "civilized" by white Americans, would he have acted differently and not, forgive the pun, lost his head in Ilongot country?

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Edsa II is again telling us: 'Tackle corruption, finally'

OUTLOOK

Rigoberto Tiglao

A MONTH in power, it looks like President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo did hit the ground running. Like a no-nonsense corporate CEO, she has put together her management team, and set up a clear, deliberate process for picking her other officials. She has demonstrated her political sense by touching base—yes, that's the purpose of all those keynote speaker affairs—in a months' time with the country's elite power groups: big business, its Filipino-Chinese wing, the military, the Catholic Church hierarchy, the press and even to some extent what deposed President Joseph Estrada termed as the "mob," that is, civil society and grass-roots organizations.

And in a month's time she has sent the signal that she will be dealing with the country's biggest problems, or controversies: poverty eradication, the coconut levy and the communist and Islamic insurgencies.

We feel there's something missing though. The main message the Macapagal administration is sending, is of an efficient, no-nonsense, no-midnight-drinking, no-crony administration.

Well and good. But there must be more. Ms Macapagal's presidency isn't, and can't, be an ordinary one. It is after all the child off a spectacular People Power revolt, swift, direct democracy in action, and not just the usual error-prone polls.

For a whole lot of reasons, and Gregorio Honasan's coup attempts were one of these, the first People Power administration turned out to be, well, just another administration. The national will and excitement generated by People Power I failed to change us as a nation.

Real reasons for Edsa I and II

So what is it that we really need to change fast about the nation? Look at the real reasons for the two People Power revolts, and the answer is staring us at our faces. Yes, opposition hero Benigno Aquino's assassination was the trigger for Edsa I. However, what really galvanized the nation, especially its key middle- and upper-class sectors, for the 1986 uprising wasn't—sad to say—the killings and imprisonment of thousands under martial rule. Neither was it a noble ideal like "democratization."

It was something more mundane: corruption, or the catchword we have been fond of using then and now, cronyism.

It hadn't really been too big a problem for our now heroic and patriotic Makati business elite for Marcos to have established a conjugal dictatorship. It became another thing though when Lucio Tan moved into the beer business, to challenge San Miguel Corp. which had been a symbol of old elite supremacy. Or when the likes of Disini and Silverio, and most especially of Marcos' brother-in-law, Kokoy Romualdez, were fast building up new conglomerates, challenging the old ones.

It wasn't until corruption's impact on the economy really ate into people's pockets—remember the double-digit inflation in the 1984-1985 period?—that the conditions were set for People Power I. The cause-and-effect link even had become too obvious with disclosures of the billions of pesos in government bank loans to cronies.

Not a moral revolution

Fast forward to January 2001, and it's the same story. "A moral revolution," some call People Power II. Dramatic and soul-stirring that may sound, we don't think that was what it was all about.

It wasn't Estrada's mistresses, it wasn't his drinking and gambling buddies, it wasn't his "sinful" lifestyle that generated a groundswell of disgust against his administration that led to People Power II. It was the posh, scandalous mansions and bank accounts of his mistresses. And where else would he or his mistresses get the money? It wasn't his drinking, but the government contracts, as well as Estrada's personal protection as in the case of Dante Tan and his BW Resources, his buddies got in those sessions. It wasn't his gambling, it was the kickbacks he got from the gambling lords.

In a word, it was corruption, in 1986 and in 2001, that pushed Filipinos to undertake People Power. Which should mean therefore, that it is primarily government corruption that this People Power administration should finally tackle.

That admittedly doesn't sound like such a brilliant insight. After all, ask any man on the street what the country's core problem is, he won't say "the Philippine elite's social irresponsibility and greed," "structures of underdevelopment," or "industrialized countries' hegemony of the world economy." He'll say without any hesitation, "corruption."

Indeed, poll after poll, it is corruption in government which Filipinos think is our biggest problem. They're so much convinced that it is so that they voted into Congress a woman who portrayed herself as the great anti-corruption crusader, but who, especially in the past months appeared to be insanely megalomaniacal.

No doubt, ridding our government of corruption is a gargantuan task.

How do you change what some say was a rational response to hated colonial bureaucracies, that somehow became ingrained in our collective consciousness? How do you make honest a bureaucracy of over 100,000 underpaid people, where a Cabinet member earns less than a clerk in a Makati company? How do you change the legal system, especially an Office of the Ombudsman whose lawyers themselves are underpaid, and therefore prone to the corruption they are supposed to eradicate? How do you pit the Bureau of Internal Revenue against tax evaders, when the bureau's national level lawyers are outnumbered by the private law firm of Lucio Tan?

A Sisyphean work it may seem for any administration: What's going though for this administration is that it was catapulted to power by what is essentially an anti-corruption uprising. Its reason for existence is precisely to eradicate corruption, or at least to get finally going that national agenda that has been put on hold for decades.

* * *

Which leads us to a news item that prodded us to write this piece: Ms Macapagal's revival the other day of the Ramos-era Presidential Commission Against Graft and Corruption and the reappointment of its former chair, Eufemio Domingo.

We hope that's not all of Ms Macapagal's anti-corruption drive. Domingo is a grandfatherly, decent man of unquestionable integrity, who in his own quiet way fought the Marcos dictatorship. We doubt though whether he would still have the energy to lead what should be a centerpiece of Ms Macapagal's administration. The task requires the likes of Haydee Yorac, Joker Arroyo and Wigberto Tañada, heading a high-level, multi-agency task force, with its "strike teams" of private lawyers working in the way they helped the prosecution panel in the impeachment trial.

We also hope that it isn't the same Ramos-era PCGG Ms Macapagal is reviving. We went to that office in 1996 to interview Domingo. It's in some dilapidated building in the University of the Philippines, which looked and even smelled like an abandoned structure. The office had a total complement of 20—with only five lawyers, straight from law school. After we visited that office and interviewed Domingo, we were convinced Ramos wasn't really too keen on his vaunted anti-corruption campaign.

* * *

Comments: rtiglao@inq7.net

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LETTERS

Difference between legalism and justice

RENE Saguisag's insistence that Estrada is still the legal president bastardizes the indignation in Edsa last January. It is an insult to a people who could no longer tolerate an incompetent and unprofessional leadership.

It is evident that these challenges posed by the camp of the deposed leader are attempts to stall the proper course of justice. However elaborate the defense is, their motives remain dubious. And cynical are their arguments. Now, the people see, in all vividness, how legal technicalities subvert due process.

Nobody has to take the heat off a man who sees the government as his personal fiefdom. Yet for a principled lawyer with a cosmic ego like Saguisag, this is a worthy case. He sees the circumstances as a personal test of his lawyering skills.

But he must be reminded that he, together with his band of merry men, have no right to obstruct an already chronic due process. The popular uprising, we must keep in mind, is a reminder that nobody is above the law.

This is indeed a problem with a lawyer whose rabid fascination for contradiction comes first before the exigency of the facts. Constantly he must be reminded that legalism and justice are two different things.

With all that said, I can't help but admire the guts of Saguisag. Somebody has definitely got to do the dirty job. And dirty job it is.

Maybe somebody should tap Saguisag to handle the garbage crisis. He is used to the dirty work anyway.—**ALLAN FROILAN B. MENDOZA, allan_fbm@ yahoo.com**

Realizing core values of GMA's presidency

IT is with profound gratitude that we recall, reflect on and hope for the concretization of the four core values of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's presidency: to fight against poverty; to improve moral standards of government and society; to replace the politics of personality and patronage with the new politics of party programs and dialogue with the people; and leadership by example.

After the first month of governance, we recognize her initiatives to make these values a reality: the formation of a task force for social reform and poverty alleviation; the visits to depressed areas in Quezon City; the resumption of peace talks with communist and Muslim separatists; the prioritization of development in Mindanao; the signing of the Solid Waste Management Act into law; and for reinstating professionalism and setting a high standard of work ethics in government.

On the other hand, we strongly urge the President to keep her word to shelve the Power Reform Bill as the privatization of the National Power Corp. can only adversely affect millions and deprive the poorer sectors of basic services. With the same concern, we advance the call for the President to set up measures that can liberate many from the oppression of unemployment and underemployment by opposing the continued practice of labor contractualization.

The Macapagal administration has shown indications of seeking justice for the Filipino people by bringing those responsible for the national crisis to court. Truly, we look forward to nothing less than Ms Macapagal's transparency in all matters concerning the national interest. We stake our hopes that she will not fail our people especially the poor.

Finally, we sincerely assure Ms Macapagal and her official family of our prayers and our co-responsibility in making democracy work in our nation.—**SR. REGINA CALDERON, FdCC AND THE CANOSSIAN SISTERS, Sacred Heart Province**

One bishop does not a clergy make

I AM responding to Ramon Tulfo's article, "The hypocritical clergy." (PDI, 2/15/01) He wrote about a certain police officer who drove a jeep without a license plate and a former Philippine Airlines flight stewardess who was reportedly abducted by young men in a van that had no license plate, etc. He also mentioned an unnamed "bishop" engaged in some irregular transactions.

Tulfo should understand the meaning of "clergy." One archbishop and one bishop do not make a "clergy." He would not have wasted the adjective "hypocritical" had he used it to report on politicians who profess to work for the common good ("*para sa mahirap*") but instead lined their pockets.—**FIDEL PALISOC, FPPalisoc @aol.com**

No election posters on mountainsides

IT'S election time again and I would like to call the attention of authorities and all the people concerned to keep the mountain slope protection along Marcos Highway going to Baguio clean and sacred.

Let us not allow the names of political candidates to be painted and stained on its surface. It will surely spoil the beauty of these cement plastered mountain slopes.

The viruses of their forgettable names (once painted on its surface) may create chemical reactions that will melt the strength of its cement paste and cause its collapse.

Spare the place, there is still a suitable place to put their names say, the garbage dump.—**JESS N LLORENTE, 1206 Batangas St. Makati City**

FIRE
POWER
FOR A PURPOSE
FIREWORKS
display to
celebrate
YOUTH
EMPOWERMENT
LAYA
SIGAW NG KABATAAN
STREET
PARTY
FEBRUARY 24, SATURDAY/ 6pm-2am
PEOPLE POWER MONUMENT
We're celebrating YOUTH POWER with
one of the year's biggest fireworks display!
FEATURED PERFORMING ARTISTS
Rivermaya • Freeverse •
Bulk • Groove Nation
Francis M. • Rico Yan • Jaya • Charlene Gonzales
Mikee and China Cojuangco • Jamie Rivera • Candy Pangilinan • Ryan Agoncillo
Cris Villonco • Lani Misalucha • Karen Davila • Ella Mae Sayson
Cuneta-Pangilinan
LIVE over ABS-CBN 2
Brought to you by:
People Power Commission
Couples for Christ

A tale of two Edsas

(*Conclusion*)

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

IF the similarities between Edsa I and Edsa II are uncanny, their differences are pronounced. I've had occasion in the past to mention some of them, but they should be worth repeating here in this form.

The most patent difference is that in 1986 Ferdinand Marcos was an extra-constitutional leader while in 2001 Erap was a duly elected one.

Marcos' second term was due to expire after 1973, after which he could not run again, as the Constitution bid. He solved that problem by declaring martial law. Being a lawyer, however, he made sure he had legal backing by reconvening the Constitutional Convention (after many of the members had disappeared or landed in jail), passing a new constitution, and getting the Supreme Court to recognize the legality of martial law. Which the Supreme Court did with much legal gobbledygook, couching its approval in double negative: there was no legal reason for Marcos to not get on with it. Marcos' quest for legality would create a monumental irony—a regime propped up by law but groaning with the weight of lawlessness.

In the end, true law—the one allied with justice—would assert itself, which was the people's will. The people would rise in February 1986 to end the regime of lawlessness.

Erap's case was trickier—which is why some foreign observers see only an Edsa I and not an Edsa II. Erap wasn't just the duly elected president, he was the most popularly elected president of this country. Consequently, his loyalists proclaim, his ouster disenfranchised his voters.

Not at all. At the very least, the people who ousted him were the same people who voted for him. Joker Arroyo, the man who prosecuted him and called him a thief; Nene Pimentel, the Senate president who later resigned out of disgust over his colleagues' plan to mug decency in public office; Edgardo Espiritu, the finance chief who would testify that he lied and cheated and defrauded the public: all of them did not just vote for him, they campaigned heart and soul for him. So did many of those who flocked to Edsa in January 2001. They did not feel excluded, they felt betrayed.

Erap's administration was legitimate, he wasn't—or had ceased to be, so for wrongdoing of a scale that matched only Marcos'. At the impeachment trial, shysters would again try to use the law to defend lawlessness, which is yet another similarity between the first and second People Power. But in the end, true law—the one encapsulated in the phrase "the voice of the people is the voice of God—would assert itself. The people would rise in January 2001 to end a regime of lawlessness.

The drama of People Power I was more overt, the drama of People Power II was more "closet." That is another difference. People Power I pitted Marcos and Cory, dictatorship and democracy, the military and the people. People Power II pitted corruption, cronyism and abuse of power against public consciousness, a kind of conflict that's not so easy to grasp particularly from a distance. If you couldn't see the small victories, the subtle changes that were taking place in the public consciousness throughout the trial, you'd be convinced—as many foreign observers were—that People Power II was just a sudden and whimsical explosion by Filipinos to recall their vote. It was nothing of the kind.

I've written about the impeachment trial being a source of monumental education and provocation, the two things that sparked People Power II. Suffice it here to belabor only one last point about the education, which was the face the impeachment trial gave to corruption. That, I am convinced, will be its lasting legacy. Until the impeachment trial, few Filipinos really knew what "plunder" meant. It was just a word, as abstract as "ill-gotten wealth." The testimony by Chavit Singson et al., in all their scandalous detail, weaving a tale of gangsters, gamblers, government officials, bankers, lawyers brought together in one malevolent scheme to rip off the public, dispelled the vagueness. It gave a clear and indelible picture of what corruption meant.

It gives a chance for the prosecution of Erap to prosper, which should hold important consequences for the future. It may even give the effort to recover the Marcos loot a new lease on life.

People Power I was to a large extent authored by Cory Aquino, Jaime Cardinal Sin, Fidel Ramos and Butz Aquino. At least, they had a reasonable claim to it. By 1985, the Reds had broken off with the Yellows, boycotting the "snap elections" and looking to armed struggle pretty much as the only option left to oust Marcos. Though they had prepared the ground for Marcos' demise, not least with a revolution that rang the alarm bells all the way to the Pentagon, they had no direct link to the series of events that precipitated Edsa.

People Power II has a more mixed parentage. Certainly, the Left cannot be left out of it. It was the activists, along with the NGO community, which planted the seeds that yielded the harvest that was Edsa II. Certainly, too, the military has little claim to it, though they've been seriously staking one to it lately. In their version of Creation—and they have no less than Gloria for their spokesperson—they didn't just happen to turn sides at the witching hour, they'd been planning to rid the country of a canker all along.

It's a lot of bull, and I'll have something to say about it next week. The power and magic of People Power II was that it came from below rather than above and was largely self-willed or impelled. I've had tons of mail from people who agreed with me when I said that the people who went to Edsa in January did not do so for Cory or Gloria, they did so for their children. People Power II was the purer, truer, people power. The real heroes were the people themselves. Nobody may relegate them to pawns in their version of a morality play. They were the central character there.

There is one last difference between People Power I and People Power II, which Gloria, who has been trying to rewrite history over the last couple of weeks, would do well to ponder, especially during the Edsa celebrations this weekend. Both Edsa I and Edsa II produced two women successors, but the first will always be seen as having reaped what she sowed while the second will always be seen as having reaped what everybody else sowed.

Gloria can still acquit herself by using the harvest wisely. That can begin by not giving unto Caesar what is God's, not giving unto the military what is the people's.

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

The WORLD

MARGOT J. BATERINA, Editor

Probe of FBI procedures launched

Attorney General: How can 15 years of spying for Moscow go undetected?

WASHINGTON—The FBI scoured Robert Philip Hanssen's home, emptied the family shed and even raked through leaves and debris in the yard.

As agents on Wednesday looked for evidence of spying activities, Attorney General John Ashcroft promised to search for answers inside the government to one of the most troubling questions in the espionage case: Why 15 years of alleged spying for Moscow was never detected at the FBI?

Ashcroft has asked former CIA and FBI Director William Webster to convene a panel to review internal security procedures within the FBI and recommend changes that could prevent future cases.

"The attorney general views this case very seriously," said Mindy Tucker, Ashcroft's spokesperson. "The fact that there are still countries that are interested in stealing our intelligence secrets shows that we need to take steps to review our security measures so that this doesn't happen again.

The spy case will be the subject of a closed hearing next week before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

At Hanssen's home in suburban Vienna, Virginia, agents carried out family belongings from the shed—bicycles, a fertilizer spreader, a plastic-foam pool toy marked "Hanssen."

They raked under and around the shed and turned up a matchbook and a shotgun shell.

Hanssen, a counterintelligence expert and a 25-year FBI veteran agent, was held at an undisclosed detention facility in Virginia.

A 100-page affidavit released by the FBI on Tuesday alleges that in 1985 Hanssen sent a letter to a Russian agent volunteering to provide classified intelligence information in exchange for $100,000.

For the next 15 years, the affidavit says, Hanssen passed along to Soviet and later Russian agents 6,000 pages of documents on secret programs that described how the US gathers intelligence, technologies used for listening, people who work as double agents and other highly sensitive matters.

The FBI began investigating Hanssen only late last year, Director Louis Freeh said.

"He knew all the trip wires," said Richard Alu, a retired FBI counterintelligence agent who worked with Hanssen for several years.

The FBI redoes background checks on agents every five years, so any red flags that might have indicated a problem with Hanssen—financial troubles, marital problems, drug or alcohol problems—would have turned up.

"He didn't fit the profile," said Alu.

FBI agents are given polygraph tests when they join the bureau but there's usually no subsequent testing unless they need a higher level of clearance for a particular assignment.

CBS News, citing FBI sources, said Hanssen never received a polygraph test. Tracy Silberling, an FBI spokesperson, said Hanssen was hired before 1994, when the agency began testing new agents, but would not comment on whether he would have been tested anyway because of his assignment. *AP*

US demands China explain Iraq links

WASHINGTON—The United States on Wednesday demanded an explanation from China on reports that its technicians worked on Iraq's air defenses and urged Beijing to observe United Nations sanctions on Baghdad.

"We've raised these specific reports with the Chinese, and we would expect a response," said State Department spokesperson Richard Boucher.

The demand followed last week's bombing of Iraqi air defenses by US and British planes which Pentagon officials said was carried out on Friday, the Muslim holy day, specifically to avoid endangering Chinese technicians.

Both Iraq and China have denied the accusations, which Boucher said were raised Wednesday when Beijing's new ambassador to the United States, Yang Jiechi, presented his credentials to Secretary of State Colin Powell.

The reports were also raised during a trip to Beijing last month by David Welch, US assistant secretary of state for international organization affairs, he said.

Pentagon officials said Chinese technicians had been working on a underground fiber-optic network that would have enhanced Iraq's capacity to target allied planes.

The United States and Britain said that Friday's raids were carried out amid signs of increased belligerency by Iraq's air defense network.

The alleged China connection to Iraq presents an early challenge to the administration of President George W. Bush, which has pledged to take a less accommodating line toward Beijing than former president Bill Clinton.

Boucher said Powell had used his meeting with the ambassador to convey a message on Iraq, but the spokesperson did not say if the reports of Chinese activity represented a clear violation of sanctions on Iraq.

"The message was that we're concerned about the issue of Chinese workers in Iraq," he said.

"We see this (in the) context of maintaining the integrity of the Security Council resolutions and the integrity of the UN sanctions and that we expected a response to our demarche that we made in January on this subject."

Boucher said the United States had told China that it insisted on full implementation of all relevant UN resolutions. *AFP*

Borneo clashes leave at least 100 people dead

JAKARTA—Security forces yesterday patrolled a town on Indonesia's Borneo island trying to stop a series of bloody clashes between rival ethnic groups that have left more than a hundred people dead.

Many of the victims were mutilated and at least 20 bodies were beheaded, said Sgt. Tigei, a police officer in the town of Sampit, in Central Kalimantan province.

The state Antara news agency said gangs paraded several severed heads around the town.

Tigei, who like many Indonesians only uses one name, said intercomunal skirmishes were continuing and several houses were still on fire. Police were firing rubber bullets to disperse mobs rampaging through the town.

The latest fighting highlights the breakdown of law and order in Indonesia, as old ethnic hatreds erupt after more than three decades of authoritarian rule.

Clashes between indigenous Dayaks and immigrants from other parts of Indonesia first erupted on Sunday in Sampit, about 800 km northeast of Jakarta.

Hospital official Komaruddin Sukhemi said at least 51 bodies had been brought to the local morgue.

Hundreds of people were seeking shelter in the hospital complex and at police stations. Thousands more were fleeing the town, police said.

"There are many people on the streets," said a Sampit resident who identified herself only as Umi, "Please pray for us."

National police chief Gen. Suroyo Bimantoro said two battalions of police and soldiers had been dispatched to boost security in the region.

A Navy warship was also on its way to the area to help evacuate refugees, he said.

Police said that about 80 people had been arrested in the past few days and hundreds of homemade weapons, including machetes and spears, have been confiscated.

Police have arrested two local government officials, after accusing them of inciting the fighting.

The US State Department Wednesday urged American citizens not to travel to Indonesia, warning that unrest and violence could break out at any time.

Enmity between the Dayaks and the migrants, mainly from Madura island, has often erupted into fierce brawls in the region. The fighting is often triggered by land disputes. *AP*

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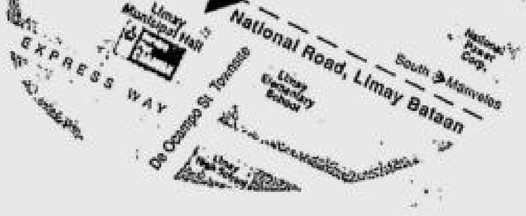

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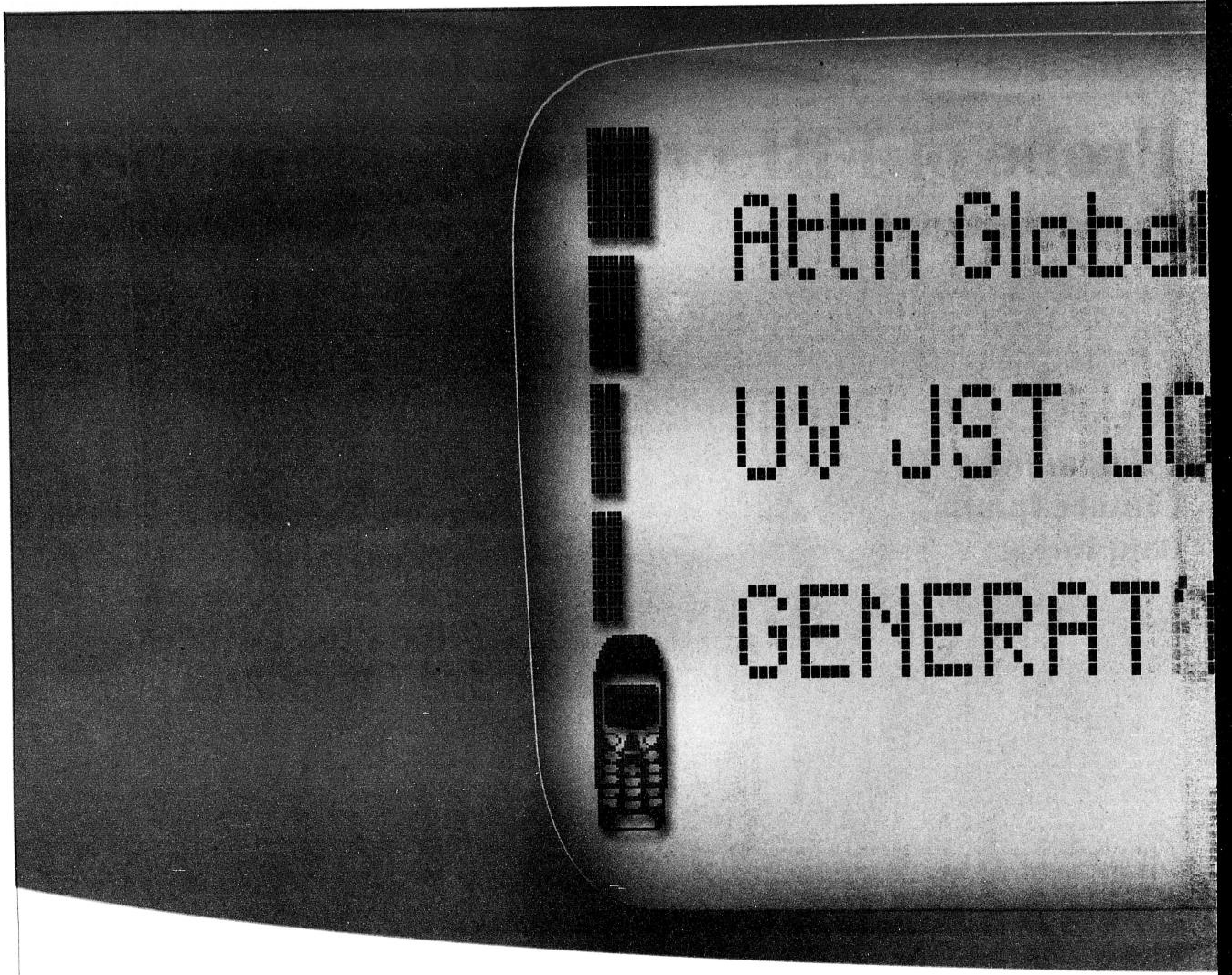

How to text using Globelines 1-900-TXT:

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1. Dial 1-900-TXT (1-900-898) on your NDD-activated Globelines phone.
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   * To compose own message, press 2.
   * For HELP, press #

To send a pre-composed message:

Pre-composed messages are commonly used text messages that are pre-programmed so that you no longer need to key in your message. To send a pre-composed message, simply key in the number of the message you wish to send.

01 – Where are you?
02 – Please call me now.
03 – I'm home already.
04 – I'm at the office now.
05 – I'm on my way there.
06 – Okay!
07 – How are you?
08 – Have a nice day!
09 – Thank you!
10 – I love you.
11 – Happy Birthday!
12 – I will be late.
13 – I will call you later.
14 – I'm sorry.
15 – What time are you coming home?

To send your self-composed message:

As with cellphone texting, just press the number key once, twice, thrice or four times for the letter you wish to use.

* For space, press zero (0).
* For backspace, press star key once (*); To erase whole word, press star key twice (**).
* For punctuation marks, press
  1 – period (.)
  11- comma (,)
  111 - question mark (?)
  1111 – exclamation point (!)
  11111 – dash (-)
* Press pound key twice (##) to end your message.

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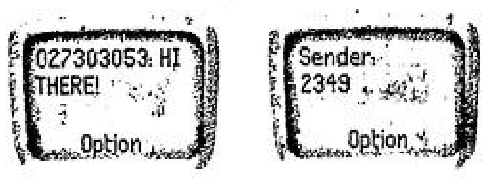

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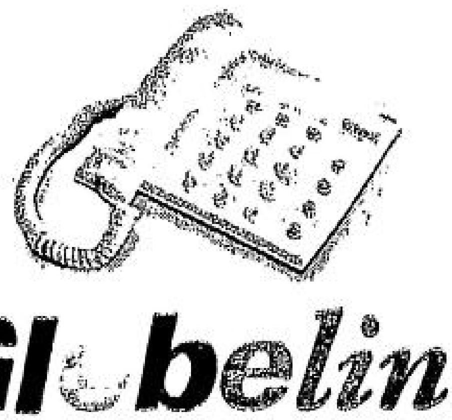

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Communicating Made Easier

Next Pope likely to be a prelate from Latin America, says cardinal

VATICAN CITY—Cardinals who elect the next Pope after the resignation or death of John Paul II may plump for a prelate from Latin America, new German Cardinal Karl Lehmann, a liberal close to the Latin American reform movement, said Wednesday.

"For the Holy Father and his aides the Latin American continent has a lot of weight; after all 500 million Catholics live there," he said.

Pope John Paul II on Wednesday inducted 11 new Cardinals from Latin America, raising the number of so-called princes of the Church from that world region to 27.

This is the second largest group of Cardinals after those from Europe.

Speaking at a hotel after meeting well-wishers at the Apostolic palace next to Saint Peter's Cathedral along with the other newcomers, Lehmann stressed the large variety of cultural influences in Latin America and warned against seeing it as a bloc.

He added that national divisions in the college of Cardinals, whose members under the age of 80 elect the Pope, are not what they used to be. Before a future vote, Cardinals could therefore form alliances according to other criteria.

Lehmann, who will be 65 in May, was passed over in three previous consistories—or induction ceremonies—supposedly for his marked liberal stance on abortion counseling in Germany and other issues.

He was a surprise nominee last month when John Paul II announced the names of seven ecclesiastics a week after the initial nomination of 37 Cardinals.

"I didn't expect it at all," said Lehmann after the swearing-in ceremony overseen by John Paul II, which took place in Saint Peter's Square Wednesday morning.

As the 80-year-old Pontiff added a record 44 new cardinals to the body which will one day elect his successor, millions throughout the world were watching the ceremony closely for any hints, however unlikely, as to who might be his possible successor.

But even Vatican watchers know that their guess which Cardinal will ultimately succeed John Paul II is as good as anyone else's.

On Wednesday, new Cardinal Theodore Edgar McCarrick, archbishop of Washington, was not so sure whether he would ever make it to a conclave, which is to elect John Paul's successor.

"I'm 70 and this Pope will still be here when I retire at 80," he said good-naturedly.

While looking frail because of his health problems, John Paul II is healthy enough and strong and very clear-headed, he added.

The Pontiff is suffering from Parkinson's disease and has undergone operations for a number of causes. A shooting attempt on his life in 1981 also left indelible marks on his physical condition. *AFP*

NEW cardinal from Colombia Pedro Rubiano Saenz receives from Pope John Paul II the red beretta, a four-cornered red hat, during the consistory ceremony in Saint Peter's Square Feb. 21. Putting one of final stamps on the group that will elect his successor, the Pope elevated 44 new cardinals. REUTERS

Mori demands probe of sub collision

TOKYO—Japan's prime minister yesterday demanded a thorough probe of the collision of a US submarine and a Japanese fishing vessel after a crewman said he was distracted by civilian guests on the sub.

"It is extremely regrettable," Yoshiro Mori was quoted by Kyodo News service and national broadcaster NHK as telling reporters. "It is quite natural that we should ask the United States government for a thorough investigation."

The USS Greeneville plowed into the Ehime Maru on Feb. 9 off the coast of Hawaii. Nine Japanese are still missing and presumed dead, and Tokyo is eager for a full accounting of the causes of the crash.

A group of family members of the missing headed to Tokyo yesterday to visit with Mori and present him with a list of requests, including a joint US-Japan recovery of the sunken vessel, punishment for those responsible for the accident and an apology from the submarine commander.

The group was also expected to go to the US Embassy to meet with Ambassador Thomas Foley.

The US envoy made a personal apology for the accident on Wednesday during a 15-minute farewell meeting with Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko at the Imperial Palace.

An imperial palace spokesperson who declined to be named quoted Foley as saying that the United States will make every possible effort to determine the causes of the accident and search for the nine Japanese who were lost.

The presence of civilians in the control room of the submarine at the time of the accident has been heavily criticized in Japan. US investigators are trying to figure out if the civilians' presence contributed to the crash.

Federal investigators on Wednesday said that the sub's crew detected a surface ship in the area where the collision took place, and that a crewman who was plotting sonar readings said he was distracted by civilian guests in the control room and halted his work.

The fire control technician, who plots the submarine's position using sonar contacts to prepare to fire at targets, told investigators his duties were interrupted less than an hour before the collision. *AP*

India extends ceasefire in Kashmir

NEW DELHI—India Wednesday extended its unilateral ceasefire in divided Kashmir for a third time, but Muslim militants rejected it as a propaganda ploy and vowed to continue attacks on military targets.

The Indian government said it would extend by another month the ceasefire against separatist militants which began three months ago and had been due to expire Monday.

The decision to extend the truce came after a Cabinet meeting led by Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, an Indian official said.

Home Minister Lal Krishna Advani also said Vajpayee would make a statement on the issue in the Indian parliament Thursday.

However, Muslim guerrilla groups in the disputed Himalayan state continued to reject the tenuous ceasefire, which India insists is meant to help end a Muslim insurgency on its side of the divided state.

More than 30,000 people have been killed in the fighting since 1989.

"We firmly believe that India announced the so-called ceasefire only to mislead the world community," said Yahya Mujahid, a spokesperson for the main Lashkar-e-Taiba guerrilla group.

"Practically, there was no ceasefire on the part of Indian military and paramilitary troops in Kashmir," he said from the Pakistan-administered Kashmir town of Muzaffarabad.

"We declare that we will continue to target Indian Army personnel and military installations," he warned. "There is no change in our stand."

A spokesperson for the Harkatul Mujahideen group also said in Muzaffarabad that, "There is no shift in our stand. We rejected it yesterday and we reject it today as well."

The All-Party Hurriyat Conference, the main separatist alliance in Indian Kasmir, said the extension would be "meaningless" unless New Delhi elaborated on its motives.

Meanwhile Pakistan, which offers open diplomatic and moral support to the militants, called the new ceasefire "an effort to hoodwink world opinion" and criticized New Delhi's reluctance to open a trilateral dialogue on the disputed state. *AFP*

Clinton in another controversy

NEW YORK—Former US president Bill Clinton was drawn into another murky controversy Wednesday, denying he knew that his brother-in-law, Hugh Rodham, had been paid for helping obtain presidential pardons.

Rodham, the brother of former first lady Hillary Clinton, admitted receiving money for helping secure a pardon for Glenn Braswell, a businessman under investigation for tax evasion and money-laundering, and commutation of a prison sentence for a convicted drug trafficker, Carlos Vignali.

Rodham's lawyer Nacy Luque said he had returned the money, as much as $400,000, according to media reports, but denied any wrongdoing.

"Hugh Rodham has done absolutely nothing wrong. He has returned these fees solely because his family asked that he do so," the statement said.

The money was returned at the demand of former president Clinton and Hillary Clinton, now a Senator for New York, who denied any knowledge of the payments.

"Yesterday I became aware of press inquiries that Hugh Rodham received a contingency fee in connection with a pardon application for Glenn Braswell and a fee for work on Carlos Vignali's commutation application," Clinton said in a statement.

"Neither Hillary nor I had any knowledge of such payments. We are deeply disturbed by these reports and have insisted that Hugh return any money received."

Clinton's statement was released as the National Enquirer, a supermarket tabloid, was preparing to publish a detailed report on the payment in its next edition.

CLINTON

The pardon of Braswell was among the more controversial of 140 pardons issued by Clinton on Jan. 20, his last day in the White House.

Braswell was sentenced to three years in prison in 1983 for perjury and mail fraud in connection with his mail order health products company.

The pardon was handed down, as Braswell was under criminal investigation for alleged tax evasion and money-laundering relating to offshore corporations and bank accounts.

Vignali walked out of prison on Jan. 20 after completing six years of a 15-year sentence for cocaine peddling. His father Horacio Vignali is a rich Democratic contributor in Los Angeles.

Local politicians, community leaders and a Roman Catholic Cardinal supported the commutation for Vingali.

Clinton's spate of pardons issued on the day he ended his eight years in the White House have sparked a criminal investigation and two Congressional probes.

They are focusing on his pardon of Marc Rich, a fugitive financier whose ex-wife, Denise Rich, contributed more than $1.3 million to party coffers and $450,000 for Clinton's presidential library in Arkansas.

Clinton's controversial pardon of his half brother Roger Clinton, 44, convicted in 1985 of possessing one gram of cocaine, has also been challenged.

According to the latest edition of Newsweek magazine, Roger Clinton was under FBI investigation at the time and was suspected of seeking to earn money in exchange for helping arrange presidential pardons.

Now members of a Congressional panel plan to probe the Braswell pardon.

Dan Burton, the chair of the House Government Reform Committee, which is conducting one of the probes, said: "We intend to look at this. We intend to ask Mr. Rodham to give us all the details of whom he represented and how he was paid."

Rodham is no stranger to controversy. Two years ago he and Hillary Clinton's other brother, Tony, withdrew from a controversial business venture in the former Soviet Republic of Georgia to avoid embarrassing the White House.

The $100-million investment in the Caucasus republic's nut business was linked to a man with alleged ties to organized crime and a political opponent of President Eduard Shevardnadze. *AFP*

Warring rivals in Congo agree to disengage

UNITED NATIONS—Warring factions in the Democratic Republic of Congo on Wednesday agreed to begin disengaging their troops on March 15, diplomatic sources said.

"We discussed the appropriate date—D-day, for disengagement—and finally we agreed on (March 15)," French ambassador Jean-David Levitte said. "It's only the beginning of a long journey, but it is a good beginning."

He added that United Nations observers would monitor the withdrawal of forces, which is to be carried out over a two-week period.

The six countries and three rebel groups that have been fighting in the central African nation for the past two and a half years will meet again Thursday.

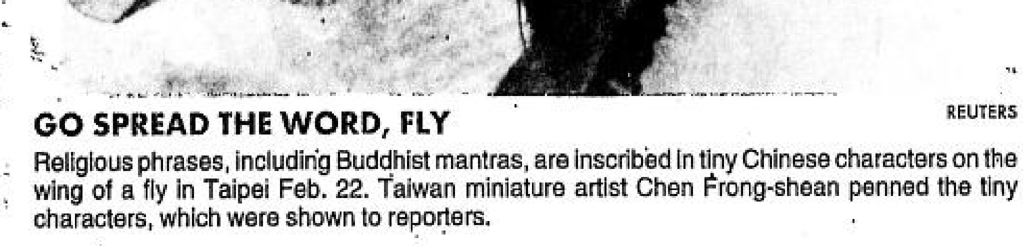
Earlier Wednesday, French officials met here with representatives of the warring parties to set a deadline for their forces to disengage, diplomatic sources said.

"Throughout the day, we are going to discuss possible dates—first for disengagement plans, and then for the next step," the removal of all forces from Congolese territory, Levitte had told reporters.

France is a lead proponent of a resolution expected to be approved by the UN Security Council yesterday, which dictates the next steps in the Congolese peace process—including complete withdrawal of all foreign troops, beginning with Uganda and Rwanda, Levitte said.

Since August 1998, Congolese forces—backed by Angola, Namibia and Zimbabwe—have battled rebels and troops from Rwanda and Uganda, which control half of the country.

Rwanda's UN ambassador, Joseph Mutaboba, told the Security Council Wednesday that its troop withdrawal would begin on Feb. 28, in line with a disengagement agreement signed on Dec. 6 in Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe. *AFP*



REUTERS

GO SPREAD THE WORD, FLY

Religious phrases, including Buddhist mantras, are inscribed in tiny Chinese characters on the wing of a fly in Taipei Feb. 22. Taiwan miniature artist Chen Frong-shean penned the tiny characters, which were shown to reporters.

China's Great Wall 500 km longer than previously thought, media say

BEIJING—China's famous Great Wall is 500 km longer than previously reported, state media yesterday said, citing recent archeological findings.

Archeologists discovered the wall actually extends to the western region of Xinjiang, in the Lop Nur area, increasing the total length of the wall to 7,200 km, the official Xinhua news agency said.

It was previously believed to extend only to the Jiayu Pass in Gansu province, to the east of Xinjiang.

The new section of the wall, discovered during a field survey conducted in 1998, stretches from western Yemen Pass in Gansu province to the northern edge of Lop Nur.

"There is no doubt this is part of the Great Wall as it consists of the city wall and beacon towers, forming a complete defense system," Luo Zhewen, president of the China Society of Cultural Heritage, told Xinhua.

Independent verification of the claim was not immediately available. Beijing periodically puts out claims that vast areas currently under its control have always been part of China.

The newly discovered section of the wall is identical to the sections at Jiayu Pass in terms of architectural style and function, but is made with yellow sandy stone and jarrah branches found locally, the report said.

Mu said the new find was a man-made wall built for defense, and that its shape and size resemble the other sections of the wall.

A large number of arrowheads have been found near the new site, indicating battles took place nearby, the report said.

The Great Wall was built some 2,000 years ago to protect China against attacks by neighboring forces. The wall in Xinjiang was built to protect merchants traveling on the ancient Silk Road and runs parallel to the Silk Road, Xinhua quoted experts saying.

The new section of the wall undulates westward at heights ranging from one to three meters, with some portions completely missing. It is located in a desolate desert used by China for nuclear testing.

Experts believe the newly discovered segment is not likely to be the end of the Great Wall as more beacon towers appear along the nearby Kongque River, Xinhua said. *AFP*

LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.

MESSAGES

LOYOLA Memorial Chapels, Inc. has indeed gone a long way, even setting the trend within the mortuary industry, ever since it was established in 1971. Amazingly, LMCI is one group that is always driven by grandiose dreams which explains its unparalleled feats.

It is thus with a great sense of anticipation that I greet Loyola Memorial Chapels, Inc., its friends and business partners on the auspicious occasion of its anniversary. I know that from here, LMCI will always be surprising us with more recognition and awards.

Congratulations and more power!

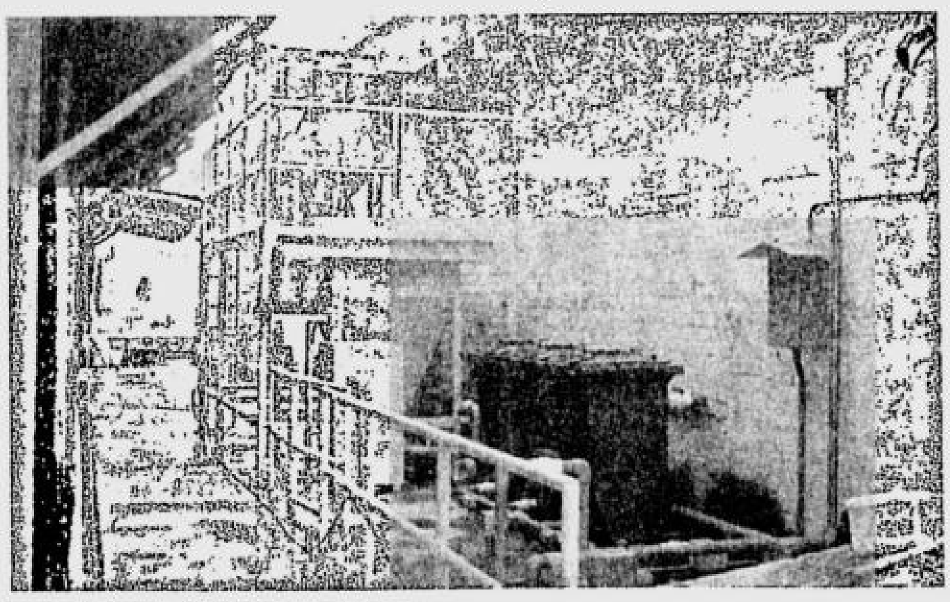
GIL G. PUYAT, JR.
Chairman of the Board
Loyola Group of Companies

AS WE CELEBRATE 30 years of dedication to the Filipino, we pride ourselves in having been able to give satisfaction to our clients and their families through a number of innovative undertakings that we have done during the past so many years. And as we embark into a new era of modern technology, we continue to source out the latest procedures and techniques of presenting and preserving the immortal remains of our clients' loved ones. We firmly believe that passing away is likewise a celebration of a life well lived and the beginning of an eternal existence with our beloved Creator.

The awarding to us of the ISO 9002 certification only emphasizes the quality of service that our clients can always expect, a commitment that the entire staff of Loyola Memorial Chapels has now, more than ever, intended to keep.

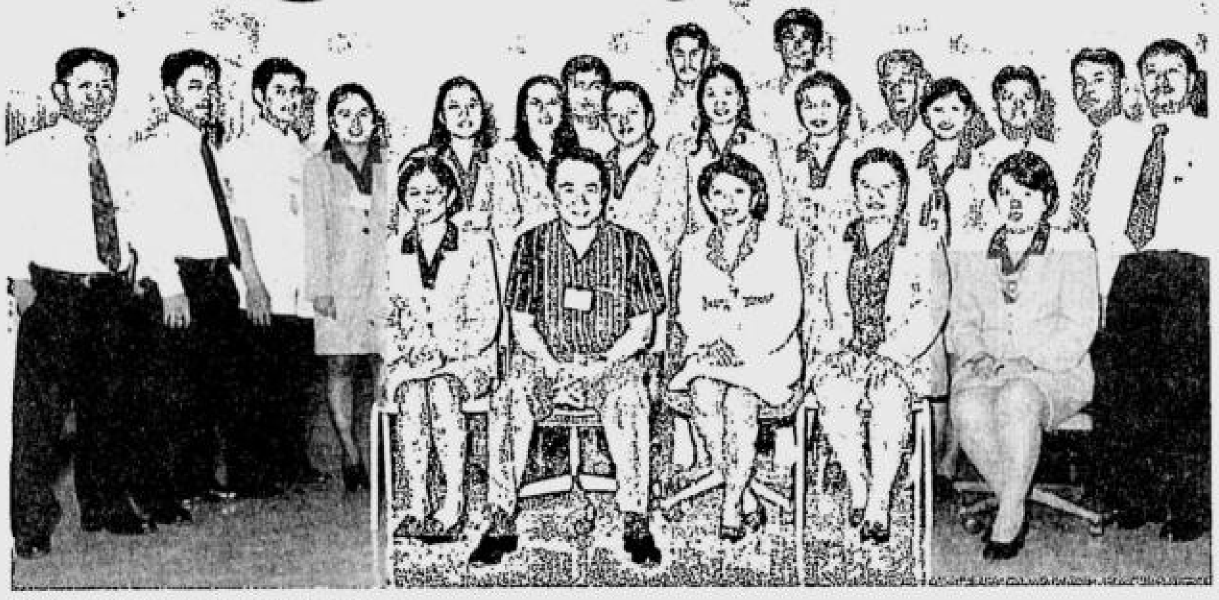
To our clients, suppliers, associates and friends in the industry, I wish to thank them all for their unwavering trust and support.

VICTOR L. MENDOZA
President & Chief Executive Officer, LMCI
Vice Chairman, Loyola Group of Companies



LMCI's wastewater treatment plant located within its compund in Guadalupe, Makati City

Celebrating 30 years



THE GROUP behind LMCI's success

Without being morbid, it is almost impossible for one to explain and discuss the trade that is called the mortuary industry. While others may deem it as 'strictly a business with the dead,' Loyola Memorial Chapels, Inc., the leader in the mortuary business in the country considers it a vocation, if not, a never-ending devotion to care for the dead and to assist the bereaved family.

It all began with the late Senator Gil J. Puyat who first developed a piece of property in Marikina, which is now known as the Loyola Memorial Park. Other Loyola ventures then slowly followed suit such as the Loyola Life Plan, now the Loyola Plans, Inc., and eventually the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Inc. (LMCI).

"A close business associate of the Senator, my father, the late Dr. Perfecto Mendoza, suggested completing the whole affair of memorialization," says Victor L. Mendoza, LMCI President and Chief Executive Officer. "And so the Loyola Memorial Chapels was born. We more or less pioneered the serious funeral business in the Philippines in line with world-class standards," he adds.

Now on its 30th year, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Inc. has remained an outstanding figure in the mortuary industry. Not only does it boast of having the best equipment, staff, and management; LMCI is celebrating its 30th anniversary with the following unprecedented achievements:

THE ISO CERTIFICATION FOR QUALITY OF SERVICE

Although not many people are aware that the letters ISO stand for "International Standards Organization," the public already recognizes them as synonymous for a company's quality, trust and reliability of service.

It will come as a pleasant surprise then to know that one of the latest companies to acquire this prestige belongs in an industry that, previously, has never been thought to aspire for such lofty standardization – Loyola Memorial Chapels, Inc.

Known ever since as an innovative memorial company, LMCI has taken the bold initiative to acquire ISO 9002, which stands for excellence in international quality standards.

"This is the first time in the country that a mortuary company has received the ISO certification. In fact, this is the first time that such an assessment has been conducted in the mortuary industry," states Marilinda Claravall-Yee, Senior Vice President of LMCI.

The ISO certification serves as the highlight of LMCI's 30th anniversary. "Although we have been operating for three decades now, we know we have to be innovative too, to be constantly pro-active. We have to keep on changing in the face of competition, to initiate change, and to maintain the leadership in the mortuary industry," Claravall-Yee explains.

ISO's corporate prestige actually means total quality to the public, specifically its customers. "Higher standard equals greater service, which will generate more trust among our clients," she continues. "It is very assuring for our customers to know that there is an international organization now backing us up, that we're setting a standard that the world recognizes."

As if one ISO is not enough, LMCI is bullish in acquiring other ISO certificates with numbers 9004 for health and safety, and 14001 for environment protection. In preparation for this, the company has already implemented since last year its method of using soft embalming, and has also put up its own wastewater treatment plant within its compound.

LMCI'S WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Water is a vital component of life. This same water that cleanses the body during life is also apparently used to cleanse it during death – and thus, is susceptible to heavy contamination. Any mortuary company can attest to using enough volume of water to rival a medium sized manufacturing company, giving rise to the importance to using a wastewater treatment facility to recycle water and save the environment.

This is why the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Inc. invested millions of pesos in putting up its own wastewater treatment plant. The first of its kind in the country to be employed by a mortuary company, the facility is a plus factor for LMCI, which has always shown a deep sense of commitment to its surrounding environment while caring for its clients.

A requirement by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), as well as several presidential decrees, the wastewater treatment plant helps clean the water used by LMCI when it goes back to the sewerage system. The tanks are made of thick stainless steel that can last for decades, and even the pumps were imported from Germany.

Another step towards health and environmental care is the gradual minimization of the use of the chemical formaldehyde or formalin, which is being discouraged by the Department of Health (DOH) and other international health organizations. In its place, the company plans to standardize the use of a soft embalming technique, a process that uses safer, odor-free chemicals, other than pure formaldehyde, whereby the body retains its natural softness and color.

Since small funeral parlors have no financial means of putting up such an expensive recycling facility, LMCI is opening this service for their use, thereby standardizing, or at the least encouraging the extensive practice of environmental protection and safety.

LMCI ESTABLISHES THE COUNTRY'S FIRST EMBALMING INSTITUTE

With the aim of enhancing the professionalism of mortuary workers and upgrading the standards of the industry, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Inc. is establishing a school dedicated to teach its students the science of proper and innovative embalming, as well as all aspects of the mortuary business.

The embalming institute has been conceptualized more than two years ago by Loyola's Board of Directors composed of the Puyat family and Victor L. Mendoza, LMCI's President and CEO.

There are numerous advantages of enrolling in the future embalming institute. The school will have to be accredited by the DOH and TESDA or Technical Educational Skills Development Authority, and it will be recognized as an institute of higher learning. Once the students leave this school, they would have acquired all the known modern methods of a new technique called *soft embalming*. They will be able to present the body in a life-like manner; they will be able to improve the embalming process, the health and sanitation of the body. Customers then will be better able to appreciate the improved quality of their services resulting in higher standards in the industry.

Once the embalmers in the local funeral homes come to LMCI's seminars and enroll in its school, they will understand that LMCI's new types of chemicals do not take as much additives to embalm the body, and that they are much safer to use and equally effective at preservation.

MORE PERFORMING YEARS TO COME

As if the above mentioned string of achievements is not enough, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Inc. has already mapped out its itinerary for the next five years. By year 2003, the company would have had introduced the mobile embalming service where far-flung areas can avail of quality mortuary services with just a phone call. Within the next five years, LMCI plans to expand its operation with at least 20 franchisees nationwide.

All these involve enormous investments for the company. But, Loyola's Board of Directors, notably the Puyat family, have always adamantly adhered to a policy of service first before profit. "We want the people to realize that all these undertakings are for the good of the company to ultimately better serve the public," LMCI management and staff unequivocally concluded.

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

ROUNDUP

CVOs, not 'NPAs' nabbed

DIGOS CITY—The two suspected New People's Army rebels arrested by government soldiers in Kiblawan, Davao del Sur last week turned out to be members of the Civilian Volunteers Organization (CVO). Provincial police chief Supt. Guillermo Lara said the firearms seized by the soldiers were bought by village officials for their residents' security and that there was no encounter at all. *Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Pa gets 6 deaths for rapes

BATANGAS CITY—The Batangas Regional Trial Court has sentenced a newspaper vendor to die six times by lethal injection for raping his three daughters several times and siring one of them a baby girl. The death sentences were the first in Batangas province in the month-old Macapagal administration. Jose de Castro, 38, of Barangay Pallocan East here, was also ordered to pay P300,000 to his victims. *Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Requests for escorts on the rise

DIGOS CITY—The provincial police command here has been flooded with politicians' requests for security escorts. Supt. Guillermo Lara, provincial police chief, said most of those requesting for security escorts cite threats to their life as the main reason for their need for security. "Of course, we are not saying this is not true but we have to closely scrutinize each request or we'll end up detailing our police personnel to politicians," Lara said. *Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

44 orgs vs Alvarez

MALAYBALAY CITY—Forty-four groups in Bukidnon have expressed their support to Senate President Aquilino Pimentel's pronouncement to block the confirmation of Rep. Heherson Alvarez as environment secretary if Alvarez is appointed to the post. The groups, in a statement signed during a conference last Friday, criticized Alvarez for opposing a total log ban and instead pushing for selective logging, which was "tantamount to further destruction of our forest." The statement said the DENR adopted selective logging as its forest management strategy and failed, citing the case of Bukidnon where landless farmers took over former logging concession areas. *H. Marcos Mordeno, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

BISHOP CRIES HARASSMENT

'Jueteng' men demand jobs

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Jueteng bet collectors here have asked Bishop Ramon Villena of the Diocese of Bayombong to provide them alternative jobs as a result of the all-out campaign against jueteng operations in the province by law enforcement agencies.

The order of the Department of the Interior and Local Government for authorities to crack down on illegal gambling activities forced several workers of jueteng operators here to look for other jobs.

At least 25 jueteng workers met with diocese officials this week and urged Villena to provide them jobs to support their families.

The workers, allegedly employed by two local gambling lords, one of them a police officer, were told by Villena to instead seek assistance from the government.

"This is a form of harassment. I believe they came here because the gambling lords sent them so that I will (abandon) my campaign against jueteng," he said in a press conference here.

Villena warned the jueteng workers here that they would be arrested should they insist on returning to the diocese's office and press their demands.

Police sources here said a police official suspected of financing local jueteng operations had convinced a former jueteng worker to submit a jueteng payroll to Villena after some police officials allegedly supporting his rival's operations raided his jueteng safehouse in Barangay Bonfal here last month.

Villena, in a press statement, promised to expose the jueteng payroll that he said contains coded names of local officials and even Catholic priests receiving jueteng money.

Last year, Villena admitted that an emissary of suspected jueteng financier Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda offered to provide funds for the construction of the P50-million diocesan pastoral center in Bayombong town in exchange for his silence on the jueteng issue.

The bishop said he rejected the offer. *Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Chavit says immunity no big deal for him

CITY OF VIGAN—Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson said it is no big deal whether he gets immunity or not as long as all the culprits in the economy's plunder, including ousted President Joseph Estrada, were included in the charges.

"Immunity is not a problem as long as Erap would be included in the case," Singson told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview Tuesday.

"I am willing to go to jail as long as all the others involved, particularly former President Estrada, would (be) with me," he said.

Charges of graft, malversation and falsification of public documents have been filed against Singson with the Office of the Ombudsman.

Singson and his estranged friend Estrada could face the death penalty if convicted of stealing the P130-million tobacco tax money from the coffers of Ilocos Sur.

Singson, the whistleblower in the Juetengate scandal that led to Estrada's ouster, reiterated his claim that he was only used by the former president and did not gain from the irregular transactions involving jueteng collections and tobacco excise tax payoffs.

"I did all those things because the former President ordered me to do so," he said.

Earlier, President Macapagal-Arroyo said she favors the granting of immunity to Singson for his role in Estrada's impeachment trial.

She said Singson deserves immunity because he is a "vital state witness."

But Singson said he is expecting that the government's plan to grant him blanket immunity will face stiff opposition from pro-Estrada senators.

"Expected *na mahihirapan (sa) Senado dahil marami pa ngang kakampi si* Erap (I'm expecting that it would face rough sailing in the Senate because Erap still has a lot of supporters in the Senate)," Singson said.

He also questioned the complaint filed against him and 16 others, saying Estrada was not included in the list of respondents.

The Office of the Ombudsman has formed a panel to study the granting of immunity to Singson.

Earlier, Ombudsman Aniano Desierto said a factor they have to consider is if Singson was "not the most guilty" among the accused in the criminal cases against Estrada.

Desierto said the panel would examine whether Singson's testimony against Estrada could be corroborated and whether "it is absolutely necessary for the prosecution of the case."

In a survey conducted by a Catholic-run radio station in Ilocos Sur this week, 104 of 168 caller-respondents did not favor the granting of immunity to Singson. *Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Gas leak in geothermal plant kills 3 workers

TIWI, Albay—Three persons died while two others were hospitalized allegedly after inhaling hydrogen sulfide gas that leaked from the steam pipes of the geothermal plants here.

The victims were doing maintenance work on the pipes when the gas leaked. They were identified as Vedel Tolentino, Quintin Belchez and Crisanto Brosas, residents of this town and contractual workers of the National Power Corp. and Miescor, a Tiwi-based contractor of the Philippine Geothermal Inc. (PGI), which operates the plant.

Two other workers, Salvador Collantes and Larry Balimbing, were brought to a hospital.

Police said the workers were hired as pipe fitters for plants 1 and 2 of the geothermal complex.

The five workers fell unconscious to the ground when the poisonous gas leaked, a police report said.

Tolentino and Belchez were declared dead on arrival at a hospital in Tabaco town while Collantes and Balimbing were given first aid before they were transferred to a hospital in Legazpi City.

Brosas was declared dead at the Estevez Hospital in Legazpi City.

The town police suspected a cover-up of the case.

Efforts of the INQUIRER to get comments from plant managers proved futile.

Nobody in the plant wanted to talk on behalf of the Napocor.

Miescor officials also could not be reached for comment.

Police here said they could not investigate the case if there are no complainants.

It was learned that the contractual workers were not given sufficient gadgets. *Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Plea-bargaining won't save killer

By CARLA GOMEZ
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Bemon Gallo was spared from the lethal injection for the massacre of five adult members of the Rivilla family here in December.

But he still faces the death penalty for the killing of three Rivilla boys after the judge denied moves for any plea-bargaining agreement.

Gallo, 20, changed his plea from not guilty to guilty before Judge Roberto Chiongson during the pre-trial conference of the five counts of murder for the deaths of Carlos Rivilla Jr., 76, his wife, Florinda, 75, their son Benrico, and helpers Doloris Ogatis, 20 and Ritchel Gonzales.

The victims' family accepted the plea-bargaining agreement offered by Joel Grijaldo, Gallo's lawyer.

Under the agreement, Gallo would not be meted the death penalty in exchange for his admission of guilt. Instead, Gallo would be sentenced to 40 years imprisonment for each count of murder.

Chiongson said his decision to sentence Gallo to five 40-year jail terms would be promulgated on March 5. Gallo would not be eligible for parole until he had served at least 40 years of the sentence, he said.

Gallo, however, still faces three counts of murder for the deaths of Benrico's sons—Mark Anthony, 13; Guillermo Benrico Jr., 11, and John Michael, 9.

He pleaded not guilty of killing the three boys, but his lawyer tried to plea bargain in exchange for a lighter sentence.

Judge Anastacio Rufon, who is handling the case of the boys' killings, rejected the move, however. Rufon said plea-bargaining agreements are prohibited in cases where minors are involved.

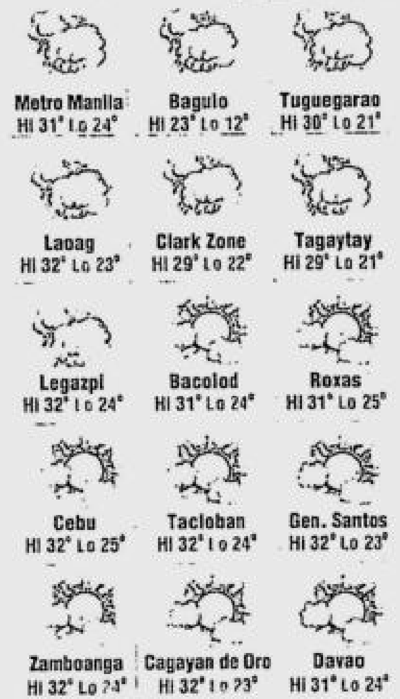
Six members of the Rivilla family and their two housemaids were found dead in different sections of the Rivilla house on 24th Aguinaldo St., this city at about 8:30 a.m. Dec. 17.

A family driver, Rudy Alfonso, identified Gallo as the assailant after he survived an attack by Gallo.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA



Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research

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IMPORTANT ADVISORY FOR MOTORISTS PASSING ALONG QUEZION AVE., E. RODRIGUEZ AVE. AND H.S. AMORANTO SR. AVE. QUEZON CITY

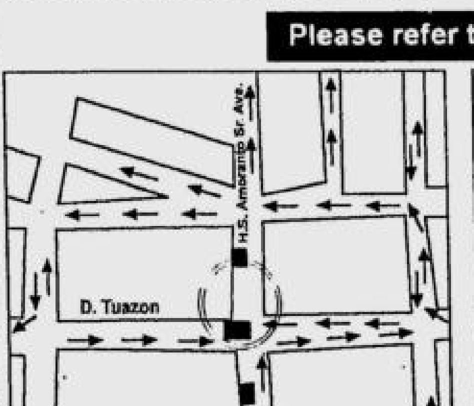
As part of the water supply improvement project of its concession area, ***Maynilad Water Services, Inc.***, in cooperation with the ***Quezon City Government***, the ***Office of the City Engineer of Quezon City, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources***, the ***Metro Manila Development Authority***, and ***the Department of Public Works and Highways,*** will undertake an interconnection work beginning ***February 24, 2001*** up to around ***May 5, 2001***. The project will be undertaken by Maynilad's contractor **J.V. ANGELES CONST. CORP. (JVACC)**, and will involve the interconnection of the newly laid 2,200mm. diameter mainline along D. Tuazon St. to the existing mainlines at the intersections of Quezon Ave., E. Rodriguez Ave. and H.S. Amoranto Sr. Ave. in Quezon City.

Motorists and affected residents are advised to take alternative routes to avoid the expected heavy traffic along the affected areas. We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience arising from the interconnection work and ask for the public's understanding and cooperation.

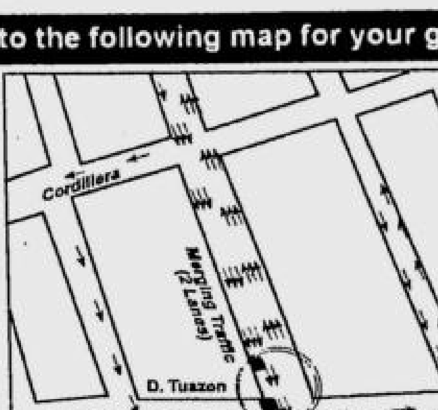
For the public's reference, here is the location of the work, and the information on the contractor involved and the project: ***Contractor:*** **J.V. ANGELES CONST. CORP. (JVACC)**, ***Address*** : #7 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. Pasig City ***Tel. No.*** : 731-75-18 ***Project Contract Reference No. :*** LMAQ-3B

Maynilad, in coordination with the MMDA and the Traffic Enforcement Office of Quezon City, will implement the following traffic management scheme to ease the flow of traffic in the affected areas. One (1) lane of Quezon Ave. and E. Rodriguez Ave. going southbound and H.S. Amoranto Sr. Ave. southbound lane as shown below will be closed to traffic from *February 24*, 2001 to *May 5*, 2001.

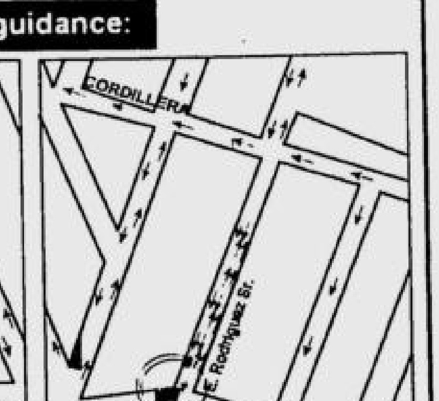
Please refer to the following map for your guidance:



Re-Routing Plan
Amoranto Sr. Ave.



Re-Routing Plan
Quezon Ave.



Re-Routing Plan
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Armed group belittles talks

THE MAN who claims to be the spokesperson of the PMP in a clandestine interview with the INQUIRER. DELFIN MALLARI

LUCENA CITY—A new underground armed communist rebel group that surfaced following the killing of its leader Felimon Lagman criticized the ongoing peace efforts between the government and other rebel groups as a "charade."

The Armadong Partisano ng Paggawa (APP), armed component of the Partido ng Manggagawang Pilipino (PMP) also vowed to continue its underground struggle. The PMP is an underground worker's party founded two years ago by Lagman.

Patricio Ramirez, *nom de guerre* of the PMP spokesperson, said, "As far as the party is concerned, there is no room for peace talks . . ."

"Who will enter into peace talks with this kind of situation?"

An Austrian-made Glock 9mm pistol lay beside Ramirez during the INQUIRER's interview with him.

Ramirez said the PMP would enter into peace talks with the government only if anti-worker policies were removed.

"We are not here just simply to advance and pursue an armed struggle. We also believe that within the process of struggle, there is always a chance to compromise and make peace," he said between puffs of cigarettes.

"But definitely, this would not happen during the time of Ms Macapagal. In fact, she has barely warmed her seat in Malacañang when our leader was brutally killed," Ramirez said.

He said the PMP is conducting its own investigation of Lagman's killing and is close to identifying the brains behind it.

"We're not after the hit-man. What we're after is the head," Ramirez said. He refused to disclose details of the PMP investigation.

"This is so because we do not want to cater to the malicious intrigues being peddled by some sectors that the killing was due to an irrevocable rift (in) the Left," he said.

"We don't want to give them a reason to pit progressive forces against each other," he said.

Ramirez said the group vowed before Lagman's remains that justice would be served "in our own way."

"*Kung ano ang inutang, yun din ang kabayaran*," he said. ***Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Pilot survives crash of Cebu-bound plane

BACOLOD CITY—A five-seat, single engine Piper Cab plane bound for Cebu exploded on Tuesday after it crashed into the sea off Barangay Refugio, Calatrava town, 129 kilometers east of this city.

The pilot, identified as Capt. John Almera, managed to jump out of the plane shortly before it exploded, said Insp. Darius Mascunana, Calatrava police chief, in a sketchy report he sent on Wednesday, to the Negros Occidental provincial police office.

The plane was taking off from a private airstrip in Barangay Refugio when it developed engine trouble, said Mascunana's report.

The plane later caught fire, said the report.

Almera bailed out of the plane before it slammed into the sea and exploded, the report said.

Almera was reportedly rushed to a hospital in the adjacent city of San Carlos for treatment of minor injuries. It was not clear yet how the pilot was rescued from the sea or who rescued him.

Mascunana said the plane, owned by Top Light Aviation, was in Calatrava to deliver milkfish and prawn fingerlings from Cebu.

The Air Transportation Office and the Calatrava police had launched a joint investigation of the plane crash, according to Mascunana.

It was unclear, however, if investigators would search for the plane's debris in the sea to determine the cause of its crash.

The Piper Cab has no black box or data recorder that could help determine what caused it to burst into flames.

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Destroy banned meat, customs exec proposes

BY ROGER PALLER
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The Cebu customs bureau is forming a panel that would determine how to properly dispose of a P3-million shipment of boneless beef from Ireland.

Rolando Yebes, Cebu customs district collector, said the 2.5-ton cargo should be condemned because of an existing ban on meat and meat products from European countries due to the mad cow disease.

He said the consignee, Monterey Foods Corp. based in Mandaluyong City, had abandoned the cargo.

The committee, composed of officials from the customs bureau, health department, National Meat Inspection Commission, quarantine office and Commission on Audit, will look for safe ways to dispose of the cargo.

Yebes said he might ask Monterey to return the meat to Ireland if no facility is available in Cebu for its proper disposal.

The cargo arrived at the Cebu International Port on Jan. 11 from Singapore aboard the MV Artemis.

Edson Yu, local representative of Monterey, said they did not release the cargo from its refrigerated van at the port because the meat's source, Agra of Dublin, Ireland, failed to meet company standards.

The Abay-Abay Customs Brokerage, Monterey's broker, said the Cebu quarantine office held the shipment because of a ban on meat importation from Ireland and other parts of Europe.

Yebes, in a Feb. 20 order, declared the cargo abandoned in favor of the government after Monterey failed to submit papers to claim it.

Teodoro Abilay, Bureau of Animal Industry director, ordered on Dec. 1 the seizure of meat and meat products from France and Ireland if these were shipped out of their countries of origin after Nov. 15, 2000 and from other European countries if these were shipped out after Nov. 29, 2000.

Also ordered seized were meat and meat products from animals slaughtered after Sept. 30, 2000.

The order came after then Agriculture Secretary Edgardo Angara banned the importation of meat from European countries because of the mad cow scare.

The disease attacks the nervous system of humans who have eaten meat contaminated with the mad cow disease.

The Jan. 11 shipment was the third from Ireland to arrive in Cebu since November.

Customs officials released the first shipment Nov. 27 without clearance from the local quarantine office and brought to a Monterey storage facility, said Art Gonzalez, Abay-Abay documentation officer.

A representative of Monterey later took the cargo, he added.

Dr. Amelia Almirante, veterinary quarantine officer, said they tried to process the cargo's release but only photocopies of the required documents, not the originals, were submitted.

Danding backs Loi Senate bid

BY CARLA GOMEZ
PDI Visayas Bureau

TALISAY CITY, Negros Occidental—The Nationalist People's Coalition is backing the senatorial bid of former First Lady Luisa "Loi" Ejercito.

Businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, NPC chair emeritus, said Ejercito would be among the 13 senatorial candidates who will be adopted by his party.

Cojuangco said the NPC senatorial slate would be a "mixed ticket" but that it would be composed mainly of candidates of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, the party that Ejercito joined.

He said their candidates would come from the LDP and the Lakas-NUCD, a leading party of the People Power Coalition.

"It will be a mixed ticket of those we feel we would want to see in the Senate," he said.

Cojuangco, political ally of Ms Ejercito's husband, deposed President Joseph Estrada, said he could not identify all their candidates yet because he does not call the shots at the NPC.

He added that his party is coming out with its list of candidates in a few weeks.

Asked if he still considered the ousted president as his friend, Cojuangco replied: "A friend is a friend, but a friend and a President are two different things."

"It is imperative for this country that whoever is leading this country gets the support of business for all our sake," he said.

"We feel that they (NPC's chosen candidates) will be good to have in the Senate (to fight) bills that the party feels are not good for the country and (to) stand for bills that we feel are good for the country," he said.

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Navy chief: Reyes forced me to retire

(From page A1)

after he openly questioned alleged irregularities in its procurement system.

As the Navy's Flag Officer in Command, Wong is the Marines' superior. The Northern Command is a posting for a three-star general but he considers it a demotion.

He said that from being head of the Navy, a major service command, the next step in his career path should either be retirement or promotion to AFP chief of staff.

Wong declined to speculate on Reyes' reason for deciding to pull him out of the Navy instead of looking into the alleged irregularities that he had raised.

"You will have to ask him that," he said, adding:

"We were a team, but it did not matter."

Wong joined Reyes at the Edsa Shrine on Jan. 19, when the AFP chief of staff withdrew support from disgraced President Joseph Estrada.

Helmets, rifles

Among the issues that Wong publicly raised was the alleged questionable purchase of Kevlar helmets and automatic rifles before the term of current Marine commandant Maj. Gen. Librado Ladia.

"Do you think I was wrong in pointing that out?" he said, close to weeping. "I have no evil intention to hurt. Why should a Marine be shabby to another Marine?"

Wong described what had transpired between him and the Marines as "a clash of leadership principles."

"I'm an open man. As for the Marines, they keep things from their men. They choose to stick their heads in the sand," he said.

Wong took over the Navy last Nov. 22. In his assumption speech, he stressed the principles of competence, honesty and discipline.

He has earned a reputation as an officer who is not only scrupulous with public funds but also frank and straightforward.

Wong is said to pay for his lunch at the Navy canteen. He eats the same food as those rationed to enlisted men. He makes his own calling cards on his computer to save on funds.

According to television reports, Wong canceled the "sea duty pay" of the Navy, an incentive given to sailors when they serve aboard ships.

But Wong said the reports were incomplete. He said that of the Navy's 98 ships, only 50 to 60 were seaworthy, and the rest, fit to be "mothballed."

He said sailors serving aboard the ships to be mothballed would be transferred to sailing ships or to ground offices.

"What I canceled was the sea duty pay of sailors who will be assigned to ground offices," he said.

Pep talk

The speech that raised the hackles of the Marines had been intended as a pep talk.

Wong said he meant the 15-minute talk—which he delivered in the morning of Feb. 15 before 300 officers and men at their headquarters in Fort Bonifacio—to be a way of congratulating them for their participation in People Power II.

This was how Wong related the incident:

In the course of his talk, he urged the Marines to reform the way they were handling their finances.

He said this was leading to questionable practices that certain officers and a few select men were keeping secret.

"*Tigilan na natin ang mga ito. Baguhin na natin ang sistema* (Let us stop these practices. Let us change the system)," he said.

After his talk, Wong met with 30 officers led by General Ladia.

The officers said it was all right to discuss such irregularities, but not in front of the soldiers as this would degrade their credibility and authority and lessen their effectiveness as combat officers.

It was at this point in the hourlong meeting that Wong started to raise his voice.

Wong told the INQUIRER that he did not realize how deep-seated was the officers' resentment.

He said it was not his intention to hurt their feelings.

But the Associated Press quoted him as saying: "Why am I the one who is being sacked? I'm the one who has the moral ascendancy. They can look at my finances—I'm not rich."

The apparent divisions in the AFP, along with rumors of coup plots, have led the President to repeatedly express her gratitude to the military for its role in Estrada's ouster.

On Wednesday night she disclosed that since January last year, she had been talking with five different military groups who offered her their support.

"I thank all these five groups of gentlemen and officers. All of you have your great contributions to make, as all the other participants that we honor tonight," she said at the Council on Philippine Affairs' celebration honoring key players of People Power II. ***With an AP report***

Nene does not like Tito's glare

(From page A1)

Senate," Pimentel said at the end of a press briefing with Senate reporters.

Pimentel mentioned Vice President Teofisto "Tito" Guingona Jr. when he was asked about the worst-case scenario should the Supreme Court find credence in Estrada's claim that he is still the President.

Reporters thought Pimentel was joking but he repeated his words with a serious face.

"Can you imagine that? Tito, my goodness! is coming back to the Senate. Can you imagine that tragedy?" Pimentel said, shaking his head.

The Senate President also does not like Guingona's "glare."

"For the last several weeks we have been freed of his glare, and then we will have him back? I'm only saying that the greater threat is that he will come back."

Pimentel was referring to Guingona's now famous glare which had provoked Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile's anger during Estrada's impeachment trial.

Pimentel said the Supreme Court should uphold the legitimacy of President Macapagal-Arroyo if only to prevent the "tragedy" of Guingona, his victorious rival for the vice presidency, having to return to the chamber.

Guingona was in Bicol, barnstorming with the administration's People Power Coalition candidates.

His daughter, Marie Guingona-Lamb who serves as executive assistant to her father, took Pimentel's umbrage.

"My firm belief is that the record of Senator Guingona speaks for itself. I don't think Senator Pimentel has the right to pass judgment on it and I'm sure not many share his view," she told the INQUIRER by phone.

Coup plot

Aside from the friction brought about by their rivalry for the second highest position in the land, Pimentel had chided Guingona earlier for plotting a coup to unseat him as Senate President a week before the session ended on Feb. 8.

That week, Guingona secretly asked senators to sign a resolution declaring Pimentel's and other Senate positions vacant to allow for a new election. But the reorganization move failed because only six of the 21 senators signed.

Pimentel said Guingona's return would also be unfair to the 13th senator who would be elected on May 14 to serve Guingona's remaining three years in the Senate.

"Then we will have to void the 13th senator. That would be a big inconvenience," Pimentel said.

He said that "practicality demands" that the SC rule in favor of Ms Macapagal in the same way that the US Supreme Court upheld the victory of George W. Bush in the cliffhanger US presidential elections last November.

Pimentel said his act of holding the microphone for the President during her oath-taking rites at the Edsa Shrine on Jan. 20 would also be rendered useless if the high court ruled in favor of Estrada.

Recalling his gentlemanly act, Pimentel had said that the new President thanked him profusely for holding the microphone as she read her inaugural speech in front of a mammoth crowd that drove Estrada out of Malacañang.

Aside from the glare, Pimentel did not spell out why he felt that way toward Guingona who was Senate minority leader when he was chosen by the President as her VP.

She chose him over Senators Pimentel, Raul Roco, Ramon Magsaysay Jr. and Loren Legarda-Leviste.

Voting with reservation

Guingona was confirmed unanimously by both chambers of Congress. Pimentel was one of the 18 senators who voted to elevate Guingona to the second highest post.

While they voted for his confirmation, Senators Juan Ponce Enrile and Miriam Defensor-Santiago did so with reservations on account of the pending legal challenge to Ms Macapagal's presidency in the high court.

Santiago said she was voting for Guingona as "acting Vice President."

Enrile raised the scenario of Guingona having to return to the Senate if the high court would make an adverse ruling.

While Lakas is now the administration party, Guingona's fellow Lakas senators and other anti-Estrada senators continue to be considered as the Senate minority group.

Sen. Renato Cayetano replaced Guingona as minority leader.

Pimentel also welcomed the reported plan of Estrada to tour the country to campaign for the opposition senatorial candidates.

"It will be good for political stability because that means he will be using the political forum as the avenue" to seek vindication, Pimentel said.

People Power . . .

(From page A1)

of the "People's Heroes" would be a yearly event to honor groups of Filipino individuals, and civic and business institutions that have substantially contributed to "nation building."

President Macapagal, the guest of honor at the event, paid tribute to "the great heroes of the impeachment trial." She said: "We do not forget Chavit Singson, who served as the spark, the first to reveal" that Estrada allegedly accepted "jueteng" bribes and tobacco tax kickbacks.

"But we owe special thanks to those whose testimonies and those whose actions ignited the flame of righteousness in these millions and inspiring to march and stand and chant for truth and justice," Ms Macapagal said.

The President said Emma Lim is best remembered for her courage and poise throughout her testimony in the impeachment trial.

"And now, one of the most famous sentences in Philippine history is '*Hindi kinakain ang* iced tea,' which she said with such equanimity in the face of one of the country's best defense lawyers," she noted, referring to Estrada's impeachment counsel Estelito Mendoza.

Ms Macapagal also recalled the "iron-clad" testimony of Equitable PCI Bank senior vice president Ocampo, who told the impeachment court how she was just a foot away from Estrada when he signed bank documents using the name Jose Velarde.

The President said that when she moved into the presidential residence, she moved the table where Estrada signed the damning documents from Malacañang into the residence.

"I brought over Clarissa's famous table so that I will always remember her heroism every time I am there in the new presidential residence," Ms Macapagal said.

Copa was formed in 1998, and was instrumental in making public Singson's exposés. Its honorary chair, spiritual adviser and sponsor is Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin.

Loi: 'I don't . . .

(From page A1)

"most likely misread and misinterpreted" Ejercito's bank records that Citibank officials turned over to him on Wednesday.

For his part, Desierto said investigators were not concerned about the date of the withdrawal "but the size of the bank accounts" in relation to the Statement of Assets and Liabilities of the former first couple.

In a press statement, however, Citibank said Desierto's allegations suggested that the bank had violated the Bureau of Internal Revenue order freezing the bank accounts of ousted President Joseph Estrada and his wife.

The BIR issued the freeze order on Jan. 23, three days after Estrada was toppled and Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was installed as his successor at the height of Edsa People Power II. "We wish to assure our customers and the public that Citibank has complied with the BIR order and will always act in accordance with the law," the bank said in its press statement.

On Wednesday, Desierto said Ejercito withdrew on Feb. 1 a total of P110,198,503 from her three accounts with the Citibank branch at Virra Mall, Greenhills, San Juan.

An Ombudsman official, however, said Thursday that Citibank officials had told him that Desierto might have misread Ejercito's bank records.

According to him, Citibank officials said the records they had submitted to Desierto did not indicate such a withdrawal on that date.

What the records showed was that Ejercito's three accounts had a total balance of only P1.4 million as of Feb. 1, the Ombudsman official said.

Following Edsa People Power II, protesters picketed the Citibank branch at Virra Mall amid reports that Estrada and his family were planning to withdraw $3 million and P100 million from their accounts.

The Ombudsman official said investigators were checking reports that the P110-million withdrawal might have been made in early January before the BIR issued the freeze order.

Even so, Desierto said investigators looking into alleged corruption by the ousted President were turning their attention to his wife, who is running for a Senate seat in the May general elections.

Perjury

Deputy Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio said Ejercito could be charged with perjury along with her husband for not listing the P110-million deposit in their joint Statement of Assets and Liabilities in 1999. The couple then declared a net worth of only P35.9 million.

Under the law, if a government official was shown to have wealth far more than he could have legitimately earned, the burden of proof would be on him to establish that the money was not ill-gotten, Gervacio said.

"As we could not determine where this money came from, considering the fact that this is grossly disproportionate to the legitimate income . . . the presumption of the law is that this is ill-gotten," Gervacio said.

The Ombudsman obtained the bank records through subpoenas that also covered the accounts held by other members of Estrada's family and his acknowledged mistresses.

Gervacio said Ejercito could be charged alongside her husband, for "plunder," a non-bailable offense punishable by death.

However, a House prosecutor in Estrada's aborted impeachment trial in the Senate said Ejercito was due to be named as a co-respondent with her husband on the alleged diversion of funds from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office to one of her charitable foundations.

Estrada was impeached for allegedly pocketing tobacco tax kickbacks and accepting payoffs from "jueteng" lords, but prosecutors failed to win a conviction that would have thrown him out of office.

Co-respondent

Gervacio said the former first lady was already listed as a co-respondent along with Estrada in some of the six corruption cases that the Office of the Ombudsman was ready to file.

But the Supreme Court earlier this week barred the Ombudsman from filing cases against Estrada for a month to give the tribunal time to decide on his petition seeking presidential immunity from suits.

Desierto said Estrada's mistresses were not yet listed as co-respondents in the cases but that there was evidence some of them had millions of pesos deposited in their accounts.

He said the mistresses were considered as "persons that might be the recipients of the (ill-gotten) assets."

Ejercito, a psychiatrist, had engaged in charity work when her husband was the President.

Earlier this month, Ejercito announced she was running for the Senate on a pro-Estrada ticket in order to redeem her husband's name.

Many analysts say she will benefit in the polls from her image as a martyred wife who stood by her husband even while he admitted to keeping a string of mistresses. ***With a report from AFP***

2 estafa cases filed vs Urban Bank execs

(From page A1)

to buy "trash receivables" of its affiliate Urbancorp Investments Inc.

The justice department filed in the Makati Regional Trial Court two separate cases of estafa against the officials.

One case involved P744.8 million worth of transactions made on April 24, 2000 while the other case involved P1.049 billion worth of transactions on April 25.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp., which recommended the filing of estafa cases against the Urban Bank officials last year, hailed the move of the justice department.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura, who had been under pressure from several groups to resign, had suspected top Urban Bank officials to be behind the disinformation campaign against him.

"The only people I could suspect are those we have filed cases against," said Buenaventura.

The use of Urban Bank funds to service withdrawals in its affiliate company has been cited by the BSP and PDIC as the main cause of the Urban Bank's closure last April 26.

Urban Bank has over 14,000 depositors and deposits of P9.1 billion of which, only P560,000 was insured. The bank pointed to massive withdrawals reaching P4 billion in the last five weeks prior to its closure as the main reason for the bank's liquidity problems.

The BSP and PDIC later found out the liquidity problem was caused by the decision of top bank officials to prioritize withdrawals from the investment unit and bought substandard receivables at the expense of its depositors.

New cases

The new estafa cases were on top of an earlier P2.8-billion estafa case filed by the justice department against 10 Urban Bank officials.

Bartolome was cleared in that case by the Makati Regional Trial Court and a hold-departure order against him was lifted by the Macapagal administration.

Former President Fidel Ramos, who served as chair emeritus of Urban Bank, played a major role in Edsa People Power II that toppled President Joseph Estrada and installed Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as his successor.

Other Urban Bank officials accused in the new estafa case are Corazon Bejasa, director and corporate secretary of Urban Bank and Urban Investments; Nida Santos, senior vice president of both companies; Milagros Santiago and Rowena Punsalan, senior managers of both firms; Mark Ching and Chula Formanes, managers of Urban Bank; Loida Payonga, assistant vice president and trust officer of Urban Investments; Amalia Ordas, manager for operations of the Urban Investments trust department; and Cecilia Mangubat, vice president of both companies.

The P2.8-billion estafa case involved the same Urban officials, except for Mangubat.

The BSP said the large-scale estafa cases could constitute economic sabotage, a criminal offense punishable by 20 years in prison.

Ramos and the Urban Bank directors were spared since they were not involved in the bank's day-to-day operations.

PDIC said it was preparing more cases against Urban Bank officials for violations of banking laws.

Among the cases to be filed are "violations of the Dosri rule, the single borrowers' limit, encashment of checks, transfer of marginal assets from the investment house to the bank, and multiple sale of NFA (National Food Authority) papers."

No deal

The filing of the new estafa case coincided with the decision of mid-sized Bank of Commerce to abandon plans to acquire Urban Bank, citing legal issues.

Raul de Mesa, Bank of Commerce president, said in a joint statement that "given the legal issues concerning the legality of the closure of Urban Bank, Bank of Commerce is constrained to step aside."

The statement said De Mesa met with officials of PDIC, Urban Bank's receivers, as well as shareholders and creditors and all agreed that state-run PDIC be given "a free hand to consider other alternatives to rehabilitate the bank."

Nazareno, PDIC president, is considering other options to rehabilitate the bank, including converting to equity the claims of depositors and creditors as well as looking for another "white knight" to rescue the bank, according to the statement.

De Mesa has recently raised doubts about the viability of the merger between the two banks given the renewed controversy about Urban Bank's links with former President Joseph Estrada.

Prosecutors at the Estrada trial in the Senate have alleged that Buenaventura had tipped off Estrada about the impending closure of Urban Bank, allowing him to withdraw P143 million a day before regulators shut down the bank.

Buenaventura rejected the allegations. ***Reports from Clarissa S. Batino, Reuters and AFP***

Edsa Shrine: Where man is fully alive

(From page A1)

tinued harping on the constitutionality of her ascent to power when she has yet to use her position to do anything to the basic sectors," said KMU chair Crispin Beltran.

Bayan's Casiño said that aside from ousting former President Joseph Estrada, the people have not seen any substantive outcome of the People Power II.

Reminding Gloria

He said that the President, while failing to address the country's basic problems, has "repeatedly pandered to the military and (given) it a whole range of privileges and benefits while assuring big business of the perks of unbridled globalization."

Casiño also said that there was an emerging pattern of exonerating Estrada from prosecution.

"We'd like to remind the President that the Filipino people are the real heroes," he said.

KMU's Beltran lamented that after a month of being in power, the Macapagal administration has not addressed the issues of unemployment, exorbitant prices, oil price increases, landlessness, militarization and abuse of human rights.

Satur Ocampo, president of the party list group Bayan Muna, said President Macapagal was "an energetic seller of fair play to corporate players, but a lackluster performer when it comes to people's issues."

Bayan and its allied groups, which actively participated in the oust-Estrada campaign and People Power II, will stage a rally on Sunday morning at around 10:30 at the corner of Edsa and Aurora Boulevard in Cubao.

After the rally, they will march to the Edsa Shrine to join the official celebration to air the "people's demands."

The shrine

Sin declared the shrine holy ground shortly after hundreds of thousands of people held vigil for three days in January and forced Estrada to abandon Malacañang.

A decree from Pope John Paul II allowed plenary indulgences to be given to pilgrims who go to the Edsa Shrine on every first Saturday of the month and confess their sins and pray.

"When the first Saturday of February came, the place was jampacked. I believe thousands of people received plenary indulgences that day," Villegas said.

He said people started coming as early as 5 a.m. to make their pilgrimage to the newest "holy ground" in the Philippines.

Villegas said that "People Power II could have only happened at the Edsa Shrine."

He said that while there were similar spontaneous gatherings of people in different parts of the country after the infamous vote of the impeachment court to block key evidence in Estrada's trial, the people gravitated toward Edsa.

"The natural impulse was to the place that symbolizes the people's expression of love of God and love of country," Villegas told the INQUIRER.

"While there were similar gatherings happened in other parts of Metro Manila, there was no momentum. It was only here," he said.

"In a way, People Power II fed on People Power I," said Villegas, who was just in his first year in priesthood when hundreds of thousands of people deposed then President Marcos in 1986.

Fifteen years and another revolt later, the giant bronze statue of Mary, Queen of Peace, stretches skyward, and the Edsa Shrine continues to pay tribute to God and, according to a black granite marker, the Unnamed Filipinos who made People Power I and People Power II happen.

'Witness to God's glory'

Villegas said it was fitting that Cardinal Sin declared the Edsa Shrine holy ground, similar to the sites of Marian apparitions in Fatima and Lourdes. Every first Saturday of the month, pilgrims go to the Shrine for plenary indulgences.

"It was the Cardinal's way of honoring the venue of the two People Power (revolutions). While Lourdes and Fatima are sites of apparitions, Edsa was witness to the glory of God," Villegas said.

The shrine was dedicated on Dec. 15, 1989 as the church of Mary, Queen of Peace by the Manila archbishop. Its foundations were laid in 1987 when the Ortigas family donated 1,500 square meters of their property for the construction of the church.

"There was even a problem when we needed more space for the Church. We had to ask the Gokongwei family to donate 1,000 square meters for the Church in 1988," Villegas said.

SC gag order blamed on Desierto

(From page A1)

Arroyo's presidency, the tribunal told Desierto that he should not take any action on the suits against the disgraced leader until after it had decided on the case.

Desierto agreed to this, De Vera recalled.

In a motion he filed yesterday before the high court, Desierto asked the Supreme Court to clarify the scope of the 30-day status quo and gag order.

He said the sweeping application of the *sub judice* doctrine in the Estrada case "so as to gag any opinion on the legitimacy of the incumbent President may be in dissonance with this state policy (on public disclosure)."

"In fact, such application may even pose practical problems," he said.

Desierto also said he was not prejudging the case pending before the tribunal when he said that Estrada was no longer the President.

The tribunal had given the parties concerned seven days within which to submit written arguments, after which the case would be deemed submitted for resolution.

It is expected to resolve the case within 30 days.

But soon after the hearing, Desierto told reporters that he would file criminal charges against Estrada after seven days.

"The Supreme Court had no choice but to issue the (30-day) order because Desierto reneged on his commitment not to file the cases until after the tribunal had made a decision on the matter," De Vera said.

Confusing

De Vera said CLEAR would file a motion for reconsideration questioning the tribunal's gag order today.

He said the order "will result in chaos, confusion, and disin-formation because it applies only to the private parties and their counsels who are most knowledgeable about the facts, evidence and issues in the plunder cases."

"They are now barred from sharing their knowledge and information about these cases with the inquiring public," he noted.

De Vera said those who were not covered by the gag order would be free to talk even if they did not have "intimate knowledge of the facts and evidence of the plunder cases filed with the Ombudsman."

He said this would lead to speculations and giving of opinions and conclusions without the benefit of the vital information known only to the private parties and their counsels.

In the motion, Desierto told the Supreme Court that the "assailed reference by the Ombudsman" to Estrada as the former President "was not at all a form of prejudgment."

"(It) is simply an assertion of the Ombudsman's basis to conduct the investigation of the criminal cases against petitioner (Estrada)—that is, the fact that the petitioner is no longer the President, hence amenable to a criminal investigation," he said.

According to Desierto, the tribunal might have been misled by Estrada's "Urgent Motion for Copies of Resolution and Press Statement and for 'Gag Order' on Respondent Ombudsman."

He said even the President and members of Congress could be held in contempt for "effectively prejudging" the disposition of the case now pending before the high court.

"Stretching this further, would the police and military establishments, civil society and the diplomatic corps be held in contempt for having prejudged the legitimacy of the incumbent presidency? These absurdities, it is respectfully submitted, should caution any sweeping application of the *sub judice* doctrine," he said.

Futile

Renato Corona, Ms Macapagal's spokesperson and chief of staff, said that Estrada was not immune from suit and that it was futile for him to argue this because the 1987 Constitution had removed the provision on presidential immunity.

Corona reiterated that Estrada filed his petitions before the Supreme Court seeking a decision upholding his presidency so he could escape criminal prosecution.

"But the 1987 Constitution removed the immunity from suit of a sitting president," Corona said. "It was former Supreme Court Justice Cecilia Muñoz Palma who removed that."

He said the then Constitutional Commission "wanted to make sure that no future dictator *a la* (Ferdinand) Marcos would be able to take refuge in that provision under the Constitution."

Corona said Estrada and his lawyers were still taking legal steps to uphold presidential immunity "by tradition, and not by an express legal provision."

He also said nobody was recognizing Estrada as the Philippine President anymore.

"It is only in Mr. Estrada's mind that he is the President," Corona said, adding:

"It is useless to talk about these little side issues. The reality is that the people have withdrawn their mandate from Joseph Estrada and have installed and recognized a new President of the Philippines, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo."

Legitimate

At the House, Speaker Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte said the earlier statement of the Supreme Court that there was no vacancy in the presidency should not be cause for alarm as what really mattered was that Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. had administered the oath of office to Ms Macapagal.

Belmonte reiterated that both chambers of Congress had recognized the legitimacy of the present administration based on several resolutions and their confirmation of the appointment of Vice President Teofisto Guingona.

He expressed confidence that the Supreme Court would issue a decision favorable to the present administration.

He said Ms Macapagal's oath-taking as President "speaks for itself, and it was an event that was seen all over the world."

"The fact of the matter is that all of us were witnesses in the oath-taking of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, and the oath of office which was prepared presumably by the Office of the Chief Justice did not mention anything about (an) acting (President)," he said.

'Kuryente'

Up to the last minute, Malacañang believed that the Supreme Court could not have issued a gag order and a 30-day reprieve in the filing of cases against Estrada.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said Wednesday morning that the report about a resolution to be issued by the tribunal on the matter was just "kuryente," or a dud.

Corona also said as much.

"There's no TRO (temporary restraining order), there's no gag order. We don't know where you got it," he told reporters. *With a report from Martin P. Marfil*

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Sales Excellence Award
Royale Crown Award for Victoria Place
2nd Runner-up, Recruitment

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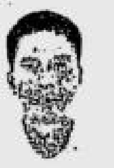
Area 501
Royale Platinum Award - 2nd Place
Royale Crown Award for
Saddle and Clubs Leisure Park



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Top in Activation
First Runner-up, Recruitment Award

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6th Place
Royale Platinum Award

JACQUELINE J. FLORENDO - 102
Royale Platinum Award 7th Place
Service Excellence Award
Royale Crown Award for Club Morocco

RUSTICA S RAMOS - 403
8th Place
Royale Platinum Award
Total Sales Management Award

AURORA G. JAVIER - 201
9th Place
Royale Platinum Award

ANTONIA C. TUMULAK - 401
10th Place
Royale Platinum Award

OUTSTAND[illegible]MANAGERS

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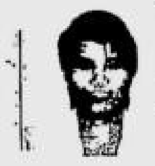
Royale Diamond Award - 1st Place

HERMINIA C. CUENCA
Area 501
Royale Diamond Award - 2nd Place
Special Award for
Saddle and Clubs Leisure Park

IMELDA C. ONGBUECO
Area 102
Royale Diamond Award - 3rd Place
Top in Activation

LOURDES SULIT - 301
Royale Diamond Award
4th Place



EMERITA M. ENERO - 106
Royale Diamond Award
5th Place
Top in Recruitment

WILBERT V. GARCIA - 502
Royale Diamond Award
6th Place
2nd Runner-up, Recruitment

JONAS CANCILAO - 603
Royale Diamond Award
7th Place

ALBERTO HECHANOVA - 401
Royale Diamond Award
8th Place

LAURA AFABLE - 201
Royale Diamond Award
9th Place

MA. LUISA DELOS SANTOS 205
Royale Diamond Award
10th Place

ARLEEN B. BUENAVENTURA
Area 103
1st Runner-up, Recruitment

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The 5th Annual Awards and General Assembly will be held today, February 23, 2001 at LIMITS Entertainment Hall, 4th Level Robinson's Galleria, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

Mutombo trade talks heat up

NEW YORK—Dikembe Mutombo is available, Jason Kidd isn't and Gary Payton might be. Trade talks heated up in certain NBA cities and cooled down in others Wednesday as Thursday's 2300 GMT trading deadline moved closer. The team most likely to make a major move was the Atlanta Hawks, who were sorting through offers for Mutombo from the 76ers, Knicks, Mavericks, Trail Blazers and Suns. *AP*

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Lewis sends offer to Tyson

NEW YORK —Mike Tyson received terms from Lennox Lewis on Wednesday for a fight this summer in which he would get half the purse. Lewis, WBC and IBF champion, however, said he would accept that split only if Tyson paid off his TV network, Showtime. "It's a joke, the whole thing," Shelly Finkel, Tyson's adviser, said of Lewis' terms. According to Lewis, who has a contract with HBO, his business manager, Adrian Ogun, had talks in New York last week with Finkel. *AP*

Heritage shows way in PAL Srs Founders

Championship Division action begins today

By Al S. Mendoza
Sports Editor

CEBU CITY—Heritage of San Francisco took command of the Founders Division at the start yesterday of the 15th PAL Seniors Interclub here as competition in the Championship Division will not start until today.

Pueblo de Oro of Cagayan de Oro grabbed the lead in the Sportswriters Division as Rene Go scored 50 points at Club Filipino de Cebu in Danao.

Defending champion Leyte showed the way in the Friendship Division as the country's most prestigious team seniors play took off on a bright and sunny day at both Club Filipino and Cebu Country Club.

Balty Baltazar led Heritage with 48 points, followed by Max Padua with 42, Roy Chu with 39, Louis Payawal with 36 and Doc Santiago with 29.

Heritage's 194 was 7 points ahead of Negros, which had 187 on the 42 of Emilio Infante, 40 of Remo Hinlo, 36 of Boy Alano, 35 of Renier Gerochi and 34 of Jose Henares.

Pueblo de Oro's Go got ample support from the 42s of Art Empamano and Boy Ramos. Ben Trinidad had 37 and Roger Fillarca 36 for Pueblo's 207 and a five-shot lead over Iloilo and six up on host Club Filipino de Cebu.

Go's 50 points was 4-over-par at Club Filipino, giving him a two-point lead in the race for the 18-hole individual event in this fabled interclub's dramatic return to its home of many years from the 70s to the 80s.

BONG Cruz, PAL-VP for marketing, hits one of the ceremonial balls of the Seniors Division tourney.

Ed Franco of Club Filipino and Heritage's Baltazar came up with 48 apiece to share second, followed by Fort Bonifacio's Ric Alindayu with 47 and Ed de Leon of Club Filipino and Cotabato's Ed Rabago with 46 each.

The chase for the Seniors top plum starts today with Luisita gunning for a second straight and ninth Championship Division crown.

But Luisita's bid got a big blow as one of its top guns, Carlo Gamban, will miss action due to an eye infection.

Luisita is still favored though as Wack Wack's two mainstays— Ben Abalos and Jose "Tetu" Santos—are also not playing.

Abalos, also Wack Wack's president, is busy attending to his new job as MMDA chair.

But host Cebu Country Club is not to be counted out. With its intact lineup and home course advantage, the host is listed to crowd the favorites.

The tournament's dark horse is Commodore Danny Pizarro's Riviera, a team that stunned the field with its strong debut in Cagayan de Oro City last year.

Captain Joey Romasanta said Luisita's bets are Richie Garcia, Alex Montelibano, Alan Gaston, Tony Garcia, Marcelo Alfonso, Lucio Yan and Cesar Munoz.

Wack Wack will be bannered by team captain Jun Jacinto, Alex Sison, Andy Co, Danny Tamayo, Boy Figueroa, Louie Borromeo and Taira Takanobu.

Cebu CC will have Bugs Onchuan, Rene Sarmiento, Noburu Takahashi, Rudy Lizares, Sammy Darza, Edgar Chiongbian, Anthony Jackson and Orly Israel.

Supporting Pizarro for Riviera are Norton Gonzales, Rico Javier, Pablo Soon, Jun Chuidian, Francis Calma, Ben Lielican and Charlie Tanega.

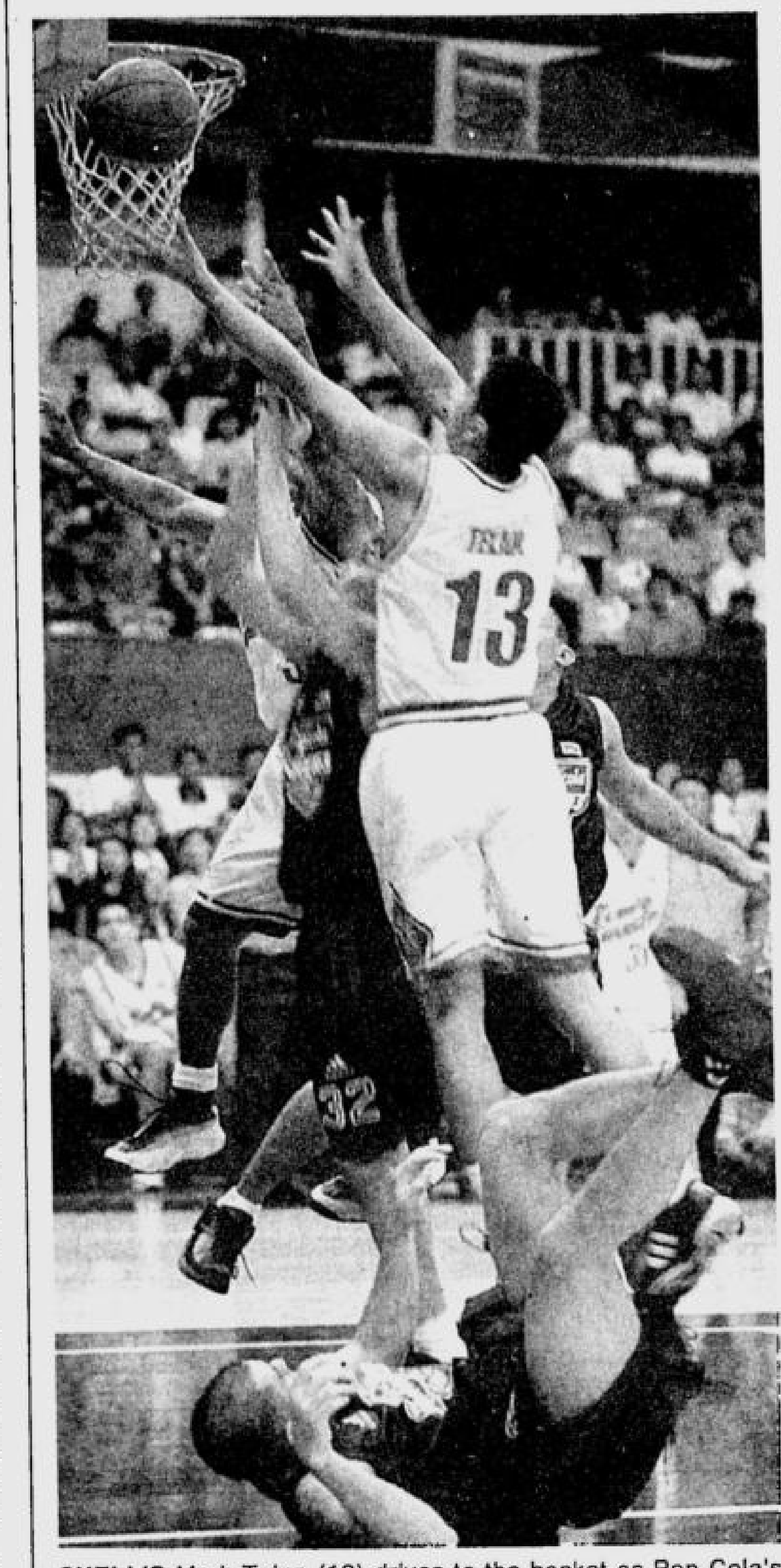
Among the sponsors of the series are Airbus Industries, GE Aircraft Engines, Mareco, Broadcasting Corp., NBC, TTG Asia, ABS-CBN Int'l, Asia Brewery, Fortune Tobacco, U-Bix Corp. and Pilipinas Shell.

Scores:

Founders—Heritage 194, Negros 187, Apo 182, Aguinaldo 176, Navy 156, Paoay 156.

Sportswriters—Pueblo de Oro 207, Iloilo 202, Club Filipino 201, Lanang 187, Zamboanga 185, Cotabato 178, Guinhalaran 176, Rolling Hills 174, Hawaii 172, Bacolod 172, Veterans 169, Alta Vista 169, Maharlika 165, Brookside 164, Iligan 152, Baguio 150, Mabuhay 148.

Leyte—Leyte 206, Evangelista 192, Bonifacio 188, Bay Area 183, Washington 181, Guam 176, San Juanico 174, Pittsburg 170, Golfinos 166, Davao 165, Brotherhood 159, Vancouver 158, Sky West 147, British Columbia 144.



SHELL'S Mark Telan (13) drives to the basket as Pop Cola's Rudy Hatfield goes down during their game Wednesday night. Pop Cola prevailed, 75-67. ERNIE SARMIENTO

Red Bull seeks 4th win vs Tanduay

PBA STANDINGS	W	L
San Miguel	4	0
Red Bull	3	1
Shell	3	2
Ginebra	3	2
Purefoods	3	2
Pop Cola	3	2
Mobiline	1	3
Alaska	1	3
Sta. Lucia	1	4
Tanduay	1	4

GAMES TODAY *(Ynares Center)*
5:15 p.m. – Shell vs Alaska
7:30 p.m. – Tanduay vs Red Bull

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ONE team aims to extend its winning streak, while the other hopes to end its losing run.

That's the gist of today's PBA All Filipino Cup main game when raging Batang Red Bull tackles collapsing Tanduay Gold at the Ynares Center.

A win by the Thunder will give them their fourth straight victory after losing their first game to Pop Cola and place them just half a game behind unbeaten leader San Miguel Beer.

A loss for the Rhummasters means a third consecutive setback and league-worst 1-5 record that will diminish their chances of making the eight-team quarterfinals.

Shell Velocity tries to bounce back after a stinging loss to Pop Cola last Wednesday when it takes on surprisingly slumping Alaska Aces.

In gunning for their fourth win, the Turbochargers might still miss Benjie Paras, who is downed by tonsillitis, while the Aces are coming from three straight loss for a 1-3 record.

Though the Thunder will enter the game as heavy favorites, coach Yeng Guiao said he wants to see how they can handle their new-found reputation as one of the fearsome teams in the league.

"We were used to playing teams which doesn't have enough respect for us in the past because we are a new and young team," said Guiao. "But now that we are winning, everybody wants to get a piece of us."

Red Bull's transformation dated back in the Governors Cup last year when they stormed to the semifinals unexpected.

But they have since strengthened all the more with the re-entry of Kerby Raymundo and top draft pick Willie Miller.

"I still have to see my team play tough games," said Guino. "Although the one against Alaska is a first big step for us."

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Cebu spikers shine

By June Navarro

UNIVERSITY of San Carlos-Cebu upset defending champion San Sebastian College, 12-11, to clinch a quarterfinals slot yesterday in the women's division of the 5th Beach Volley University Challenge at the CCP grounds.

Spikers Maricel Gitgit and Mariecherie Montalbo exploited the overconfidence of reigning titlists Jennifer Buhawe and Sheryl Tumayao to score the reversal.

But Buhawe and Tumayao momentarily brushed aside their billing, buckled down to work and whipped Foundation University, 12-2, to also earn a quarterfinals ticket later in the afternoon.

"As underdogs, we have nothing to lose. All we did was to match their attack and pounce on every opening," said the 19-year-old Gitgit in Tagalog.

Both teams advance to the quarterfinals on Sunday where eight teams try to secure a slot in the semifinals to be held in Boracay Island on April 21-22.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: US NCAA - Illinois Fighting Illini vs Ohio State Buckeyes at 8 a.m., De Paul Blue Demons vs Marquette Golden Eagles at 10 a.m. on ESPN

NBA - Utah Jazz vs Portland Trailblazers at 9 a.m. (r- 9 p.m.) on Star Sports

NBA Inside Stuff at 8:30 p.m. on Star Sports

GOLF: PGA Buick Invitational Highlights at 8 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

LPGA Cup 'O Noodles Hawaiian Ladies Open, Second Round at 12 noon (r) on ESPN

RP runners eye record

ALLAN Ballester and Daud Mama will try to break the 17-year-old mark of 30 minutes and 34 seconds 10-K barrier on foreign ground when the Adidas-sponsored Filipino duo compete in the Adidas King of the Road race on Feb. 25 at the International Airport-designed track course in Hong Kong.

Ballester and Mama earned the right to represent the Philippines in the prestigious 10-K Hong Kong run after topping the local Adidas King of the Road race organized by Rudy Biscocho last year.

"As part of the Adidas sports program, we would like to give our Filipino runners a chance to prove themselves not only in the local scene but also in international competitions as well," said Adidas marketing and sales director Sonny Nebres.

In addition to the fourth Adidas King of the Road slated in November, Nebres added that Adidas and Pharmaton have joined forces to organize races in Baguio, Cebu and Bacolod to keep up the popularity of 10-k events among Filipinos.

The existing 30.34 record was established by Mario Castro in 1984. Ballester's best time is 30.50, while Mama's personal mark is 31.14.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Notable 2. High Typhoon/ Dominant Dancer 3. Rikitik 4. Pride of Cebu

Race 2—1. Roman Queen 2. Ace of Space 3. Suterian Era 4. Penlace

Race 3—1. Hyperbid 2. Her Majesty 3. Bumper to Bumper

Race 4—1. Padron real 2. Duke Mark 3. Marginal Note 4. Daylaimee 5. Mighty Warrior

Race 5—1. Better Harry 2. St. Emilion 3. Champs Elysees 4. Sir Olizon 5. Heavenly Wings

Race 6—1. Shuttle's Magic 2. Strong Alphonse 3. Fire Mouth 4. Pretty Pleasing 5. Clear Juice

Race 7—1. Union City Boy 2. Stately Emblem 3. Early Warning 4. Altron 5. Join the Fun

Race 8—1. Make Your Mark 2. Spoiler 3. Traktora 4. Zip On 5. Marvelous Jay

Race 9—1. Terribly One 2. Great Year 3. Sovereignty 4. Noble Regent 5. Amazing Joe

76ers stop Grizzlies rampage

PHILADELPHIA—Allen Iverson scored 36 points as the Philadelphia 76ers beat Vancouver, 107-91, in the NBA Wednesday night, snapping the Grizzlies' franchise-record five-game winning streak.

Iverson shot 13-for-17 from the line as the Sixers won their fifth straight.

George Lynch had 16 points and 10 rebounds, and Eric Snow had 11 points and seven assists for Philadelphia, which improved to 21-2 when scoring more than 100 points. Matt Geiger added 10 points and a season-high 10 rebounds, and Tyrone Hill finished with 12 rebounds.

Shareef Abdur-Rahim had 27 points for the Grizzlies, who are 0-5 in Philadelphia and 1-10 against the Sixers. Michael Dickerson scored 16 and Mike Bibby added 14 points and six assists.

Lakers 101, Spurs 99

In San Antonio, six players who shared the scoring role of Kobe Bryant were the perfect complement to Shaquille O'Neal.

With Bryant, the NBA's third-leading scorer, sidelined with a sprained right ankle, the Los Angeles Lakers used a balanced attack that included double-figure scoring by O'Neal and six teammates in a 101-99 victory over the San Antonio Spurs.

Complete results

Philadelphia 107, Vancouver 91; Phoenix 100, Miami 85; Detroit 90, New York 85; L.A. Clippers 100, Cleveland 94; New Jersey 113, Toronto 111; Houston 89, Minnesota 83; L.A. Lakers 101, San Antonio 99; Seattle 127, Denver 98. *AP*

Jr tennis back today

BOYS' 18-under top seed Johan Guba of La Salle and No. 3 Ian de Guzman of UP shoot for semifinal berths today at the resumption of the Philta Junior Tennis Classic 1 at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Action starts at 1 p.m. with Guba, last year's Palarong Pambansa gold medalist, facing UST's Luis Buenbrazo and De Guzman meeting PCU's Roel Licayan. Other matches pit St. Benilde's John Rey Moreno against Joseph Arcilla and Carlo Manalastas against Roy David Jr.

The girls' 18-under quarterfinal round begins at 2 p.m. with No. 1 Czarina Mae Arevalo taking on Ivy de Castro, No. 2 Vida Alpuerto playing Tracy Bautista and No. 3 Deena rose Cruz meeting Sherry Rose Ong.

PRESIDENT'S CUP

HK boat leads regatta

HONG Kong boat Hi-Fidelity lived up to its high prerace seeding and claimed top honors in last Tuesday's 25-mile PLDT Race within Manila Bay, the first race of the ongoing 9th President's Cup Regatta.

Skippered by veteran international sailor Neil Pryde, Hi-Fidelity emerged winner in the Open Racing Class with its corrected time of 2:57.21, beating local boat Karakoa of Ray Ordoveza, which clocked 3:20.43, and another Hong Kong entry, Fred Kinmonth Stella, which submitted a time of 3:23.38 based on provisional results.

Defending overall champion Subic Centennial opened defense of her crown she won in Subic Bay last year with a fourth-place finish in 3:24.00 while KD 40, also from Hong Kong, finished last in 3:26.36 of the PLDT and Nokia-backed event.

"Great way to start the series, the race was good and the winds came," said Pryde, one of the sponsors of the regatta together with Coca Cola, Nestle Phils., Maersk-Sealand, Absolute Water, Tanduay Rhum, San Miguel Beer, Boating World Makati, 105.9 dwLA, and Traders Hotel.

Organized by the Manila Yacht Club and supported by resorts Club Punta Fuego, Maya Maya Yacht Club, and the Taal Lake Yacht Club, the regatta also featured races in other classes.

In fact it was a closer race in the Ocean Cruising class with Andy Soriano's Maligaya, easily the biggest boat in the field, ruling the category with a time of 3:25.53, about a minute ahead of Hong Kong entry Hocux Pocux II, which almost figured in a collision with Maligaya at one point.

The Cruiser Racing class, which attracted the biggest number of boats with 7 entries, was also a close race between local boats Rags and Vivaldi. Allan Burrel's Rags edged out Vivaldi, skippered by Claudio Altura, 3:49.51 to 3:50.25.

Kiri and August Pearl were the only finishers in the PYS Cruising Class as other entries Enamorado and Trio dropped out.

"This is the first time that some of the region's top regatta sailors have sailed in Manila, and they liked what they saw and now want to promote the regatta to other sailors. And that is our objective, make this event one of the biggest in this part of the globe," said MYC Commodore Peter Capotosto.

As of press time, the 40 mile Nokia Race from Manila Bay to Nasugbu Bay was still being contested while the rest of the races this week are the Punta Fuego Race, the Maya Maya Race, and the Nasugbu to Manila Bay James L. Gordon Sr. Race on Saturday.

Also supporting the regatta are the Philippine Navy, the Philippine Coast Guard, and the Department of Tourism.

Quite a comeback

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

WITH great courage and strong personal discipline, four-time World Cup champion Paeng Nepomuceno is slowly regaining the form that made him the greatest bowler of all time.

The soft-spoken 44-year-old Nepomuceno burned the lanes anew over the weekend, winning the Makati Bowlers Club Games with a total scratch score of 1,362 on games of 243-267-237-193-232-201. He carried a minus 10 pins per game handicap.

Two Sundays ago, Nepomuceno, a southpaw, won his second King of Pearl Singles Classic, rolling a total of 1,406 on lines of 223-223-218-234-254-254 for an impressive average of 234. He captured his first "Pearl" title last September 2000, marking his comeback bid by scoring an aggregate 1,448 on games of 223-257-248-226-268-226 for an incredible average of 241!

Now using a 14lb ball instead of his usual 16lb ball, Nepomuceno is honing for next month's World Bowling Masters in London where the handsome 6-foot-2 Filipino is defending champion. He won the Masters in 1999. Then on May 4, 1999, immediately after winning the Masters, Nepomuceno underwent surgery in California to relieve a persistent pain in his left bowling wrist. Paeng is allergic to pain relievers.

"Paeng's eyes start to water and his throat closes down after one extra-strength Tylenol," said Pinky, his wife of 17 years.

It was during one of Nepomuceno's frequent visits to a married sister in San Diego that the Filipino sports hero opted to undergo surgery under renowned wrist surgeon Dr. Julio Taleisnik, author of the "The Wrist," a book that serves as a valuable reference for hand surgeons around the world.

There was concern after the operation that Nepomuceno would not be able to play again. But as it turned out, it was not so.

"Paeng has since then been recovering from the operation," said his father-coach angel Nepomuceno. "He has been following a strict daily regimen, running five to six miles in upscale Makati, mountain biking on weekends, when not in the beach with his family and lifting weights."

The only four-time Bowling World Cup champion, a record that will probably last forever, Nepomuceno is hell-bent to maintain his incredible form and unlimited energy. And because of this, every other player on the international bowling circuit may have to spend sleepless nights worrying about the possibility of Nepomuceno coming back stronger and better than ever.

* * *

SPORTS TRIVIA. After the Phillipines' historic third-place finish in the second World Basketball Championship in Rio de Janeiro in 1954, the country was in the news again in 1962. Manila was supposed to host the fourth WBC that year but a political incident jolted the tournament. The Philippine government under then President Diosdado Macapagal refused to grant entry visas to players and officials from socialist countries. As a result, the FIBA (International Basketball Federation), the ruling body for basketball, withdrew the championship from the Philippines, excluded the country from the next WBC and imposed a fine of $2,000 on the organizing Basketball Association of the Philippines.

BAP officials Sen. Ambrosio Padilla and Dionisio Calvo made a hurried trip to FIBA headquarters in Munich in a bid to save the championship, but the best they could get was an authorization to hold an invitation tournament. Brazil came to the rescue when it agreed to stage the cage meet in 1963. The fourth WBC was held in Rio de Janeiro on May 12-25, 1963.

SPORTSWATCH

Basketball backed

REXONA reiterated its effort to support not only the Philippine team but the sport of basketball in general as it announced its expanded program covering the sport this year. Aside from sponsoring the national intersecondary and the national intercollegiate basketball championships in Naga and San Pablo respectively, Rexona has also extended the original three game tune-up series of the RP team in the country's southern cities to cover more areas to drum up support for the team. Re-launched under Rexona's Survival Challenge Series, the expanded program will also see the RP team play games in Ormoc and Dumaguete, possibly against the Cebu Gems, this aside from the original games in Cebu and Bacolod this weekend and in Tangub City on Feb. 28. Events organizer Albert Almendralejo also announced that for the Bacolod game on Sunday, the RP team will play local team Negros Slashers instead of the NCAA champions College of St. Benilde.

Age-group netfest set

BURLINGTON Industries Phils., exclusive manufacturer of the PBA-famed Burlington Performance Socks, recently signed with Sporting Edge Management Group (SEMG) to run a 12-leg age group tennis circuit beginning this Saturday at the Rizal Sports Complex in Pasig. This was jointly announced by Ruddy C. Tan, general manager of Burlington Industries Phils., and Ben M. Natividad, president/CEO of SEMG, a Philippine Sportswriters Association awardee in 2001. The second leg unfolds tomorrow with top juniors already listed, according to tournament director Lefty Gonzales. Interested parties may call SEMG at tel. nos. 635-6196, 635-6197 and 635-4441.

Hingis enters q'finals

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates—Top-seeded Martina Hingis of Switzerland breezed into the quarterfinals of the $565,000 Santex WTA Dubai Duty Free Women's Open on Wednesday, but fourth-seeded Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain was blown away by Russian teen-ager Lina Krasnoroutskaya. Hingis stayed on course for her second successive title with 6-2, 6-1 victory over Joanette Kruger of South Africa. Meanwhile, the 16-year-old Krasnoroutskaya played a strategic game to grind out a 6-3, 5-7, 6-3 win over former world No. 1 Sanchez-Vicario in 1 hour, 47 minutes. *AP*

'Guagua' solo champion

UNHERALDED New Guagua Coliseum upstaged the veterans yesterday morning by posting a perfect record of seven wins and emerging solo champion of the well-attended NCA 7-Cock Derby at the Araneta Coliseum. The victory marked an auspicious debut for New Guagua Coliseum in the 15-leg series under the auspices of the National Cockers Association. The next NCA 7-Cock Derby will be held on Feb. 26-28, with Gerry Fevidal, Ruel Ricafort and Salex Escalona as hosts. In clinching the solo championship, New Guagua relied on superbly conditioned fighting cocks fielded by Pampanga businessman Eric Yu and Happy Game Farm.

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QUARTERFINAL ROUND QUALIFIERS
February 21 results:

Schools/Organizations			Score
Men's Division			
Foundation University 1 (FUASO)	def.	Univ. of Santo Tomas (Pax Romana)	12 - 4
Foundation University 2 (OSLETA)	def.	Univ. of Santo Tomas (Pax Romana)	12 - 6
Women's Division			
South Western Univ.-Cebu 1 (Sports Organization)	def.	Univ. of St. La Salle-Bac. 2 (Samalaya)	12 - 2
San Sebastian 2 (Student Gov't.)	def.	Univ. of St. La Salle-Bac. 2 (Samalaya)	12 - 0

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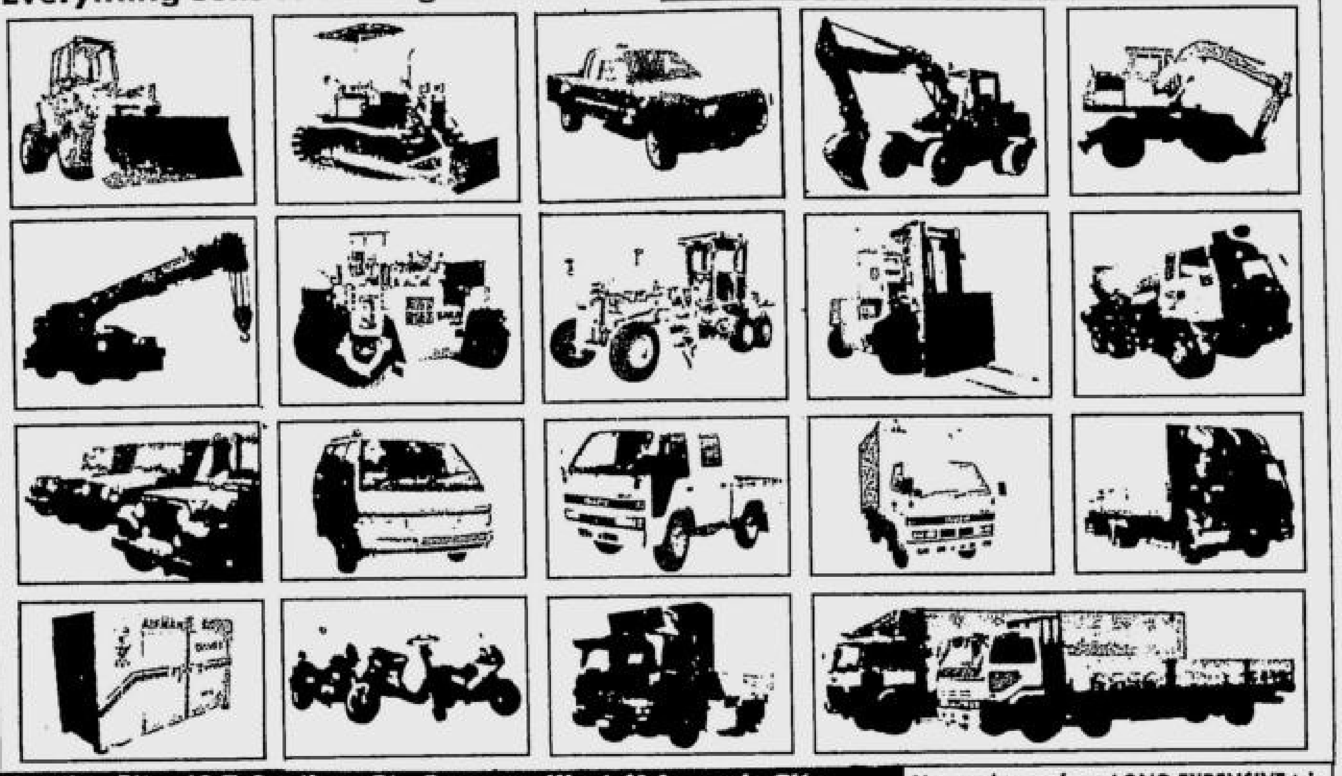

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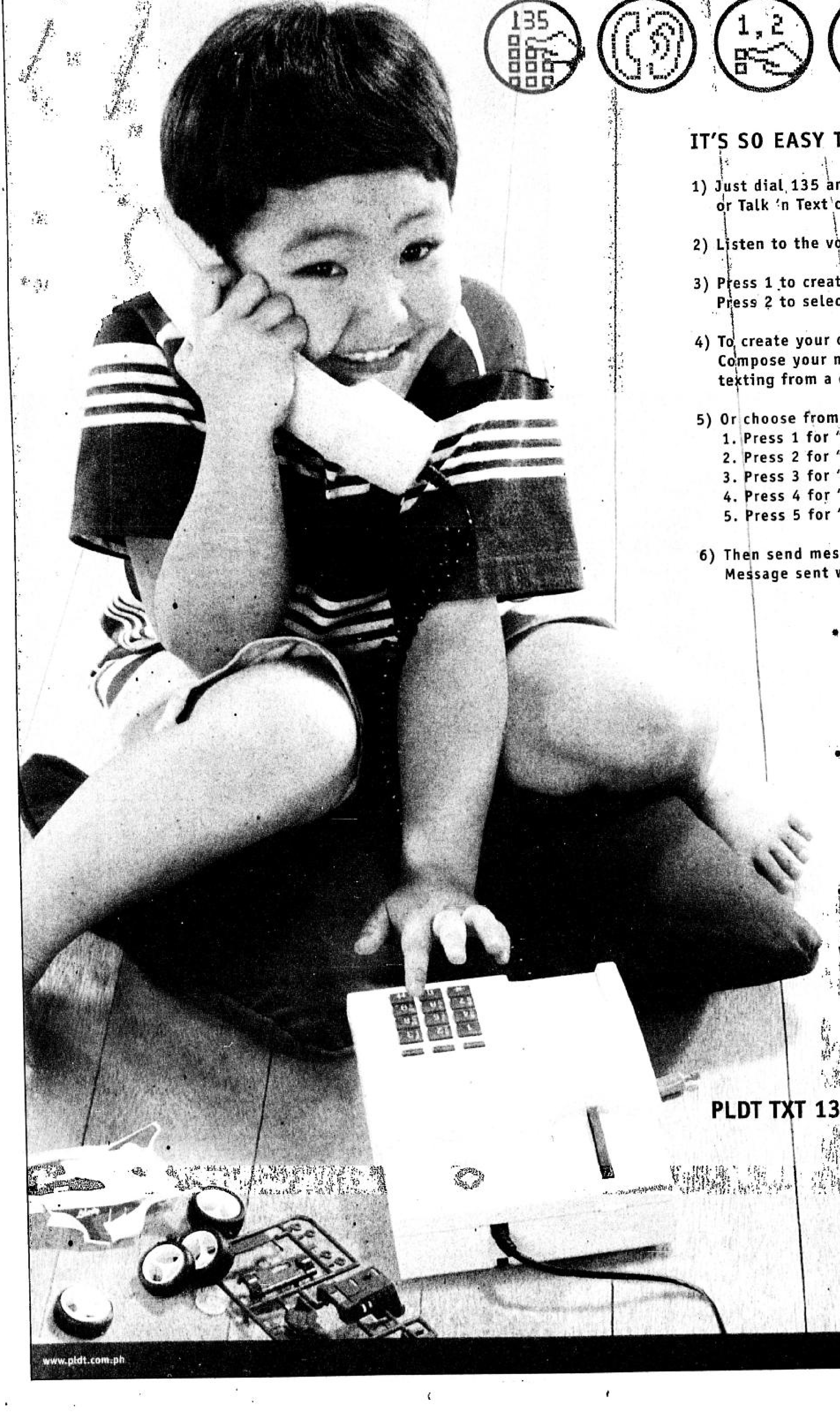

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LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

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$127-B fake US bonds seized from 3 drunks

By ALCUIN PAPA

POLICE seized about $127 billion worth of fake US bonds and certificates from three drunken men who were making trouble outside a karaoke bar in Makati City on Saturday.

Southern Police District investigators yesterday said the cache was similar to the $2 trillion in counterfeit certificates that authorities seized in Cagayan De Oro also on Saturday.

Supt. Wilbur Naldo, chief of the SPD District Intelligence and Investigation Division, identified the three men arrested in Makati as Jun Canda, 30, Raul Serquina, 24, and Benedicto Genon, 36, all residents of United Hill, Vermont South Park, Parañaque City.

A fourth suspect, Rose Mendoza, said to be between 35 and 40 years old, a native of Davao City now residing in Tondo, Manila, tried to claim the fake bonds from SPD officials.

She, too, was detained.

Naldo reported to SPD director Chief Supt. Manuel Cabigon that a team was sent to respond to a call placed at about 3:30 a.m. by the management of Boss KTV on Pasay Road, Makati City, regarding three troublemakers.

Naldo ordered his men to subdue the suspects who were said to be challenging passersby to a fistfight.

The suspects allegedly assaulted the DIID team even after they identified themselves as lawmen.

$127-B FAKE/ A24

Toll free raise opposed

MOTORISTS passing the South and North Luzon Expressway might have to pay higher toll fees if the petition filed by Citra Metro Manila Tollways Corp. to increase its rates would be approved.

But non-government organizations like the Movement for Responsible Enterprise headed by Rey Junia are calling the rate increases highway robbery, and officials of the governments of

TOLL/ A24

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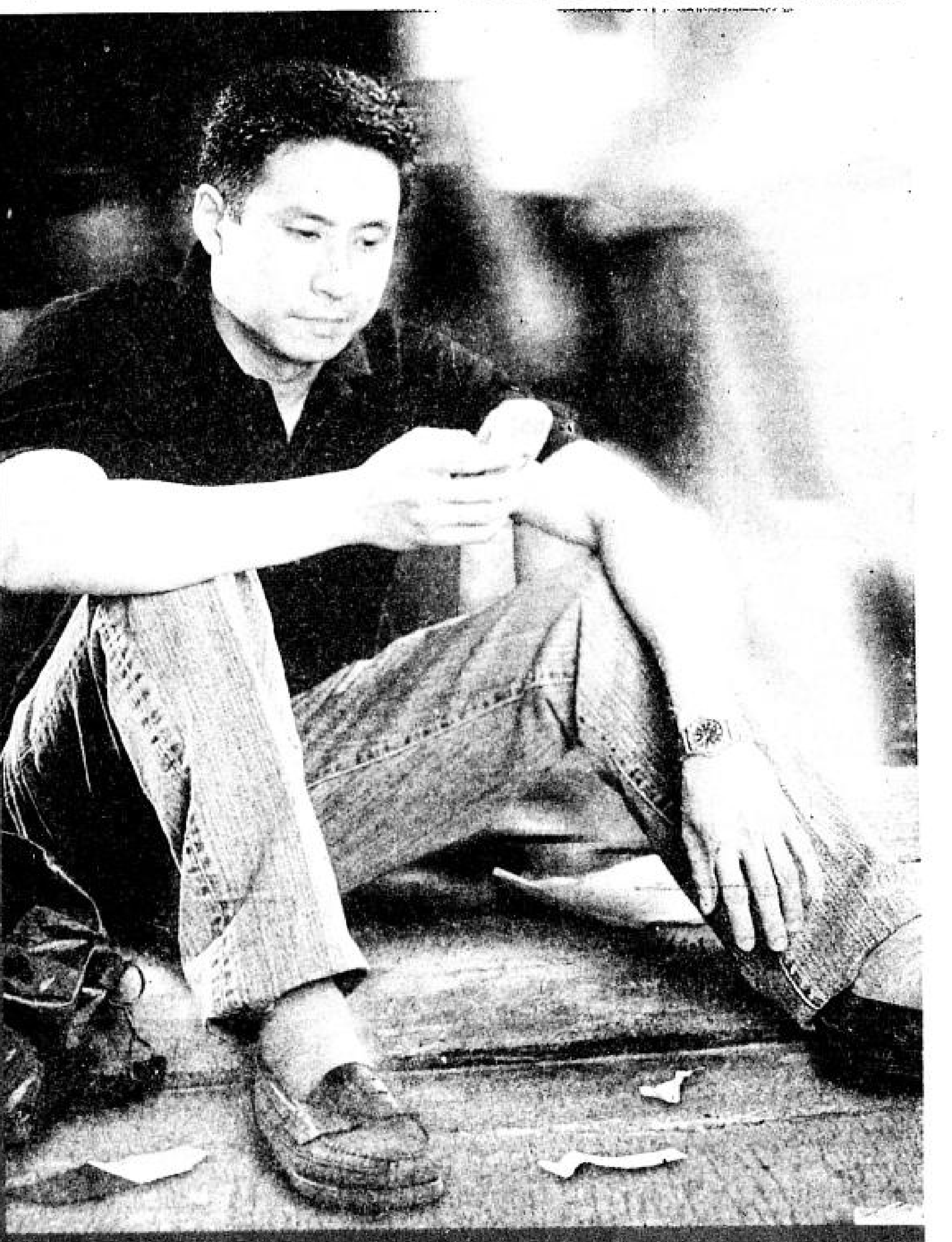

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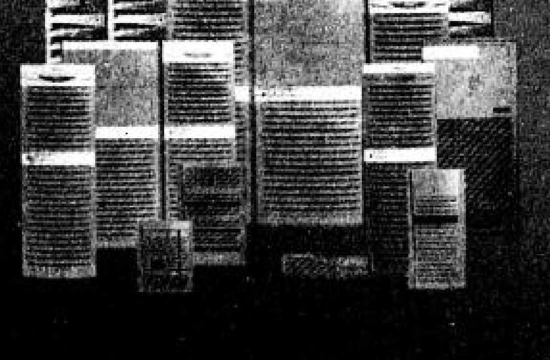

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Segregate waste or be punished, warns MMDA chief

By Agnes E. Donato

INVOKING the ecological waste management law, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. yesterday warned garbage contractors and the Metro mayors that they would be facing severe sanctions if they failed to enforce the garbage segregation scheme.

According to Republic Act No. 9003, or the ecological waste management law, violators would be fined as much as half a million pesos.

"I already asked President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to authorize the MMDA to immediately implement the law even without the implementing rules and regulations so we could start imposing the fines and penalties under the law," Abalos said.

He said those who would be caught littering, throwing and dumping garbage in public places would be fined P1,000.

He said local government officials, who are mandated to direct the waste segregation, would not be above the law.

Abalos also announced that as part of its waste management drive, the MMDA would mobilize pushcart boys to collect recyclable garbage from house to house.

The arrival of the these boys would be heralded by a recorded tune similar to that of garbage collection trucks or ice cream vendors.

The MMDA is set to launch the drive next month in Barangay Gudalupe Nuevo in Makati City.

By March, a number of pushcart boys will start to collect recyclable waste based on a fixed schedule that has yet to be determined.

The pushcarts will collect all recyclable materials like aluminum and tin cans, waste plastics, glass and paper. These would be sold to local junk shops and the money would pay for the salaries of the pushcart boys and the barangay neighborhood association.

Ex-policeman gets death for killing his cousin

By Christian V. Esguerra

A LIFE for a life.

A Caloocan Regional Trial Court on Wednesday sentenced to death former policeman Carlos Manansala of P. Gomez Street in Caloocan for killing his cousin in front of his wife four years ago.

Judge Myrna Dimaranan Vidal of RTC Branch 127 found Manansala guilty of murdering his cousin Edgardo Manansala on Jan. 21, 1997.

Vidal also ordered Manansala to pay his cousin's family P220,000 in civil, moral, and exemplary damages.

Court records showed that Edgardo and his wife Elizabeth were sleeping inside the house of Edgardo's mother on P. Zamora Street in Caloocan when the former policeman dropped by at about 8 a.m. supposedly to pay his debt.

Carlos went to his cousin's room, left immediately after he found Edgardo was in the room, but returned a few minutes later with a .45 pistol.

He aimed the gun at Edgardo, who was lying in bed beside his wife Elizabeth, and said "Ed, I will kill you already."

Edgardo thought Carlos was only joking and went back to sleep. But Carlos shot and hit him in the right shoulder then fled after the shooting.

Edgardo died on the way to the Martinez Memorial Hospital.

In his defense, Carlos denied he intended shooting Edgardo and claimed he went to his cousin's house to convince him to stop selling drugs. He said Edgardo and his wife were responsible for the proliferation of illegal drugs in their area.

Carlos told the court Edgardo got mad and took a .45 pistol from under the pillow and tried to shoot him. He said he tried to take the gun away from his cousin but it went off accidentally, hitting Edgardo in the shoulder.

But Judge Vidal ruled that Carlos killed his cousin with treachery inside the victim's house, which aggravated the case.

The case was sent to the Supreme Court for automatic review and Carlos was brought to the National Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa.

Lepers want Tala back

By Jerome Aning

ABOUT 200 people from the Tala Leprosarium and estate in Caloocan City, including scores of leprosy patients, gathered near Malacañang yesterday afternoon to ask President Macapagal to revoke former President Estrada's order that turned a portion of the estate into a housing site for the poor.

The lepers, leprosarium employees and their families said the conversion of 30 hectares of land into a housing site was part of the Estrada administration's ruse to privatize the leprosarium and convert the 130-hectare estate into commercial purposes.

The protesters, who belong to the umbrella organizations Save Tala Leprosarium Movement and the Bayan Muna Caloocan chapter, gathered at the foot of the Don Chino Roces (formerly Mendiola) Bridge around 1 p.m.

They were to camp overnight at the Freedom Park near the presidential residence while waiting for a chance to hold a dialogue with President Macapagal.

April Bingo called a 'disgrace'

By Christian V. Esguerra

CALOOCAN Councilor Luis "Tito" Varela yesterday called singer April "Bingo" Regino a "disgrace" for allegedly making irresponsible statements about the city's garbage problem.

Varela, a former basketball player and referee, said Regino would demean local politics should he win as District I councilor in the May elections.

"If April wins, people would think anybody can now run for public service," Varela said in Filipino. "Performance should be the priority here, not mere popularity. Some actors in politics are also working hard to do their job."

Varela, who is said to be running as Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo's vice mayor, asked Regino and other members of show business to first "study their lessons" before joining politics.

Regino will run under the ticket of Rep. Luis "Baby" Asistio, Malonzo's rival for the mayoralty.

Regino countered that Varela is hitting him because he is said to be leading in surveys among aspirants for the city council.

"I just want to help," Regino said in Filipino. "I think you don't have to study how to help. It comes from the heart. I think I can do the job."

Will the PMS bother about this sports stuff?

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

A FLASH report says a resolution has been railroaded and signed by top officials of national sports associations in a bid to keep an Erap Estrada man in the government sports funding agency.

But before everything else, let me tell you about this call I got from a senior member of the sports media the other week.

The call, coming late in the afternoon, was totally unexpected.

It's about our friend out here, said the familiar voice on the other line. Our friend said you have hit him again. *Tinira mo na naman daw siya.*

I did not have to second-guess. I gave the name of the alleged victim and the caller promptly agreed that he was indeed the one.

Come on, I tried to explain, there's nothing personal about what I have said in that column.

I know what you meant, the caller said, but that's how they usually react. *Hindi mo na raw siya tinigilan.*

All I have asked for were achievements, a simple list. That was not asking too much.

Well, I have told him I cannot tell you what to do, I told our friend we cannot dictate on columnists.

Thank you for calling anyway. Let's see what we can do. See you.

* * *

The way the caller sounded, he was suggesting that if I have nothing nice to say about "our friend," I could just keep quiet.

There was no compromise. Just the same, I did not touch on the state of affairs in the national sports bodies for nearly two weeks. I was waiting for the concerned party to take my dare: bare its performance record, if any.

I, however, asked Ding Marcelo, sports editor of Manila Bulletin, if he has, by chance, received any list of what they have achieved so far.

None, zero, nil, what can you expect, Ding answered. He sounded quite exasperated.

Earlier in the week, Phillip Juico in his column in Today noted that, while most everybody else in the beat has kept mum, only your deadline beater has bothered to demand for that elusive list.

Mr. Juico sounded thankful for that little effort on our part. He said that, with a new administration, it was just right that performance, if any, should be made public.

It goes without saying that this record would be the basis of whether so and so would be retained in his post or not.

* * *

Nothing much has been said about this crucial sports topic in the days that followed. Of course, it was very obvious that the concerned parties also tried frantically to earn *pogi* points in the ensuing days.

Actually, I had to explain to the person involved, through our mutual friend the senior sports media man, that I have got nothing personal against him. All that I pray for is for the public and the proper authorities to be honestly informed of what these sports agencies have been doing.

Anyway, what I will try to report next will be very sensitive. It will, no doubt, be taken again as a smear or a dirty dig by concerned parties.

How I wish I could just keep quiet. But the word is out that a resolution to retain the top man in the government sports funding agency has been signed by leaders of national sports associations.

By this time, the resolution should be on its way to Malacañang, if it has not yet reached the desk of the President.

The idea, a very reliable source told me yesterday, was to make the concerned official appear perfect for the job.

* * *

Nothing wrong with that, I explained. In fact, why should these officials sign if they didn't believe in him?

No, no, that's not true, said my source, the signatories were helpless because their budget could be cut or they could not get anything at all if they didn't sign the resolution.

Did you yourself sign? I asked.

I had no choice. *Marami talagang hindi* believe *sa kanya*, but he holds the money, what can we do?

You should have not signed the resolution, I insisted, if you really love sports.

But I love my sport. If I did not cooperate, we might not get any financial support. *Maliit na nga ang ibinibigay sa amin, lagi pang huli.*

Well, I cannot do anything about that now, I explained. Once that resolution reaches the President, she would believe you are all unanimous in favoring his retention.

You can't do anything? Please do something, we need your help.

Nothing, I have done my share, I said. I have also risked being called a bigot, I have been accused of character assassination.

Of course you can still find a way to help us.

How?

You can ask the Presidential Management Staff (PMS), maybe beg its head Vicky Garchitorena, to first check on the merits of this particular official. If not, she could call the NSA heads and interview them. You can bet many among them don't believe in him.

You must be dreaming. I doubt if the PMS would even bother with this stuff. It's all too late now. He's as good as retained. Just send him a congratulatory note. We all deserve him.

Couple hunted for abuse of housemaid

CENTRAL Police District agents are hunting down a live-in couple who allegedly connived to sexually abuse their 18-year-old maid in Quezon City.

Marites Cayanda, of Barangay Veterans, Project 7, Quezon City, and her live-in partner, identified only as Ferdie, are on the run after their maid told police that Ferdie raped her late Wednesday night, said investigator PO3 Joselito Co.

The maid said that while the man was raping her, Marites did nothing.

The maid said Ferdie is into drugs.

She said she was already asleep around midnight Wednesday when she was suddenly awakened and she saw Ferdie naked on top of her.

She said she realized that her underwear had been removed and her shirt pulled up.

Despite her shouts and pleas, Ferdie continued to ravish her, she said.

The maid said she then saw her employer Marites at the door. But Marites told Ferdie to continue abusing her, the maid said.

She said Marites simply watched as Ferdie raped her.

She said she was able to escape from Ferdie's clutches but Marites grabbed her hair, kicked and punched her.

Marites was about to stab her with a fork when the maid succeeded in freeing herself.

She went to the barangay hall with only her shirt on. But before the barangay officials could act on her complaint, Marites and Ferdie were gone.

The maid had a medico-legal examination yesterday while policemen were looking for the couple.

Philip C. Tubeza

Anvil Awards

THE PUBLIC Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) is giving out the prestigious Anvil Awards today at the Hotel Intercontinental in Makati City.

The event is the 36th year of the Anvil Awards in recognizing excellence in the field of public relations. It is also the second year that PRSP is awarding the Asian Anvil Awards.

Touted as the Oscars of the public relations industry, the Anvil has become synonymous with the most respected and admired PR programs of corporations.

This year's Anvil Awards is chaired by Evelyn del Rosario of PLDT.

BOX OFFICE

ERIK ARAZAS

The Commission on Elections in Intramuros, Manila gets busy as workers prepare ballot boxes for distribution for the May elections. Upon these boxes depends the political future of thousands of candidates, including a number of people from the movies and media.

Toll fee raise opposed

(From page 23)

Muntinlupa and Parañaque are saying the increases would have to be justified.

Citra wants to increase the toll fees for cars using the elevated Skyway to P75, P190 for Class 2 vehicles and P300 for Class 3 vehicles.

Down on the SLEX from Magallanes to Bicutan, Citra wants to charge P35 pesos for cars, P90 for Class 2 vehicles and P140 for Class 3 vehicles.

From Bicutan to Sucat—P20 for cars, P50 for Class 2 vehicles and P80 for Class 3 vehicles; and from Sucat to Alabang, P20 for cars, P50 for Class 2 vehicles and P80 for Class 3 vehicles.

Chito Borromeo of Citra said the company needed to raise the fees to recoup its dollar borrowings for the construction of the Skyway. He pointed out that the rate of the dollar against the peso has risen since the project was constructed.

"Hopefully, the increases should be sufficient to service our debt," Borromeo told the INQUIRER.

He also said that Citra did not get any government guarantee unlike the Metro Rail Transit project.

Citra constructed the Skyway from Buendia to Bicutan and upgraded the SLEX from Magallanes to Alabang.

Borromeo said the objections to the increases were "understandable." But he added that the company has financial objectives and has already looked at options.

"From where we sit, this (increase) is what is necessary," Borromeo said.

Muntinlupa Mayor Jaime Fresnedi said Citra needs to "justify" the increases, and Junia said there was no visible infrastructure or improvement of the highway.

"There are many who feel that the increases are tantamount to highway robbery," Junia said. "We are paying for a service that has not been delivered."

Fresnedi also appealed to his constituents to fight Citra's petition.

"I hope the concerned agencies will reconsider their plan to raise the toll fees in an exorbitant manner because it will greatly affect our constituents particularly the less privileged in our communities," the mayor said.

The Muntinlupa city council recently approved a resolution opposing the planned increase in toll fees saying Citra could not justify the increases.

Other groups who opposed the increases were the South Luzon Bus Operators Association, heads of the different homeowners associations of villages in Muntinlupa and Parañaque and private motorists.

A big number of those opposing the increases attended this week's TRB hearings.

But Borromeo is optimistic that "something good" would come out of the hearings.

"In the hearings, some suggestions might come up," Borromeo said. "That is the purpose of the public hearings."

The TRB suspended the hearings after directing Citra to come up with official notices on their proposed toll increases. The next hearing would be held next month.

Alcuin Papa

Missing car not stolen

A 17-YEAR-OLD boy, who lost the car of his girlfriend's father during a date, yesterday heaved a big sigh of relief after he learned that the vehicle had not been stolen at all as he earlier reported.

It turned out that the black Honda Civic V-tec (UUY-536) had been taken by his girlfriend's cousins, said Central Police District investigators.

The boy and his girlfriend earlier reported that the car was stolen while they watched a concert at the Celebrity Sports Plaza along Capitol Drive in Diliman, Quezon City on Feb. 15.

But the boy discovered two days later that his girlfriend's cousin had taken the car without informing him or his date.

A Celebrity Sports Plaza security guard earlier said that two women who alighted from a Starex van drove off with the Honda Civic.

The Celebrity Sports Plaza information officer also clarified that the car was taken outside its parking lot.

She said that the car park was full that night because of the concert and so the young couple parked their vehicle outside.

Philip C. Tubeza

$127-B . . .

(From page 23)

Police said suspect Genon was about to pull out a 30-inch knife from his car, a black Honda Civic (UNJ-941), but the DIID men managed to subdue him.

When the policemen inspected the vehicle, they found federal reserve bonds, global immunity bonds, treasury certificates, insurance certificates, gold bullion certificates, bank certificates, and even green cards, all of which turned out to be fake. They were in a black steel Federal Reserve box in the trunk of the car.

The three men were immediately taken to the SPD detention center.

Mendoza arrived a few hours later and police also arrested her.

David Popp, a member of the US Secret Service, told the INQUIRER that the papers were "worthless" and warned the public against unscrupulous people offering fake certificates.

"The US government issues no such papers," Popp said. "These are worthless."

The three men were charged with illegal possession of a deadly weapon.

But Makati prosecutor Jesus Labriaga Jr. released them and Mendoza pending full investigation.

The SPD is filing against them charges of violation of the Penal Code for faking the bank notes.

Also on Saturday, Cagayan de Oro police arrested Archie Mingoc, the suspected leader of a gang that forged gold certificates worth $2.1 trillion.

'THE FAMILY MAN'

Not quite 'It's a Wonderful Life,' but still enjoyable

BY RUBEN CRUZ JR.

REVIEW

IF YOU'RE looking to catch one last whiff of the Christmas spirit, or just want to banish the cynicism that accompanies the political charade of an election year, go see "The Family Man" (if it's still showing by the time this comes out). Chances are, you'll come out of the theater feeling a bit like Bob Cratchit after he got a visit from Ebenezer Scrooge on Christmas morning.

"The Family Man" is, unabashedly, a feel-good film that works and it's a pity it wasn't shown here during the holiday season.

How many times have we seen a movie with a what-could-have-been as its theme? Call me a sap, but I never get tired of it. Even a rerun of James Belushi's "Mr. Destiny" on HBO gets my attention. Sorry, but I like the idea of second chances, especially since in real life, we don't get that many.

"The Family Man" is not exactly in the mold of "Mr. Destiny," and it's not quite the classic that "It's A Wonderful Life" is, but it is an enjoyable albeit distant version.

In "It's A Wonderful Life," James Stewart's character George Bailey, through the help of Clarence, a second-class angel trying to earn his wings, is given a glimpse of what the world might have been like if he wasn't born. In the course of this revelation, he realizes a basic truth: that each person, no matter how insignificant his life may seem to be at times, does make a difference in the lives of others, and that in the long run, what matters most is not how much money he has in the bank or what kind of car he drives or how big a house he lives in, but how he has made life better for other people.

In short, one's humanity is not measured by the size of his wallet.

Not a bad choice

In "The Family Man," James Campbell (Nicolas Cage) is given a different glimpse, but one just as enlightening as George Bailey's. He sees what would have happened to him if he made different choices in his life.

Indeed, as Danny de Vito said in "Renaissance Man," "the choices that we make dictate the lives that we lead." Campbell chooses to leave his long-time girlfriend Kate (Tea Leoni) to pursue an internship at a prestigious finance company in London for a year. Kate begs him to stay so they could have a go at making a life together but Jack leaves anyway, promising he'll be back.

Jack never does return, but as it turns out, that doesn't seem to be a bad choice. Thirteen years after facing the crossroads between his career and his true love, he's in fact confident he did the right thing in taking, as he puts it, the road less traveled.

That road leads him to the presidency of a Wall Street conglomerate and gets him dreamlike perks, like a penthouse suite in a Manhattan high rise, a Ferrari and gorgeous women falling over him.

Regrets and what-ifs

The kicker comes in the form of a Clarence-like angel, played by Don Cheadle, who gamely challenges Jack's declaration that he has "everything he wants" by showing him the life he should have had had he stayed and married his girlfriend.

The sad thing about choices is, you never really know if they're good or bad until you've actually made them. Even then, you never see the consequences of the choices you did not take, so how would you know? Hence, our regrets, the what-ifs that we find ourselves thinking of every now and then, are often pointless.

Jack's glimpse, though, makes him see things he doesn't even know are missing from his life, and he realizes that though wealth and power are worth having, these are not what matter most.

Creditably, "The Family Man" doesn't make any moral judgments about Jack's two lives. He wasn't a bad guy when he was a hotshot investment banker. Sure he was living it up, but he wasn't amoral. And the married life with kids in suburbia also has its highs and lows.

Honest, endearing

In the end, it seems to convey rightly that choices are just choices, and we have to live with the ones we make.

Cage and Leoni are cast perfectly as lovers. Cage hasn't starred in a romantic comedy for quite some time, not since "It Could Happen to You," which, like this film, also has a Frank Capra-like quality about it.

Cage is one of the few action stars who can truly shine in light-hearted roles and he gives another honest and endearing performance in the film. It's also very easy to see Kate, with Leoni playing her, as a woman one would spend the rest of his life with and give up a promising career for.

Critics would definitely say that "The Family Man" is a been-there, done-that movie and there is no argument there. I don't particularly care, though.

I just saw the movie and now I'm having a beer while I'm writing this article, in this bar filled with guys drinking alone. After this, I'll go home to my wife and kids. Thank goodness for right choices.

CAGED CLAN. Cage, Leoni and their movie kids get a second chance.

Joe D'Mango says goodbye

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

BEFORE it alarms his radio listeners, popular deejay and love adviser **Joe D'Mango** is not retiring from the business this early.

Joe bid his listeners farewell last Friday on dwTM, which has been his home for the past 15 years. But thankfully, it's only temporarily.

Today, Joe resumes his radio job on another station, Wave 89.1, formerly DMZ, the new home of "Love Notes."

"We are reformatting the station," says Joe, who is also the station manager of Wave 89.1. "I think this is the best opportunity for me to explore the world of music that I want to be in to. That's easy-listening music, my first favorite. I also saw this as an opportunity to reinvent 'Love Notes.'"

DMZ was one of the sequestered properties of the government-owned IBC 13. Joe said the radio station was acquired for P218 million on December through government bidding by Blockbuster Broadcasting System Inc.

Wave 89.1 plays contemporary pop tunes, says Joe.

"The format of the station is synonymous to what 'Love Notes' is," he says. "Its music represents emotions. It's a totally new station, not a remnant of 89 DMZ.

He points out that Wave 89.1 does not follow or copy the format of another station.

"It's not dwRK, not dwBM 105.1 Crossover or Joey 92.3. It's different from every new station that exists on the band and we are out to prove it."

Wave 89.1 will have a simultaneous on-air and media launch on March 1 in a hotel in Makati.

Third Oscar for Hanks?

KRIS Aquino has convinced me to stop watching bootleg copies of new Hollywood movies on VHS.

Kris cringed the first time she learned I patronized piracy.

I made it a point to watch the new **Tom Hanks** starrer, "Cast Away," on the the big screen.

Minus a powerful supporting cast and dazzling special effects, "Cast Away" has turned out to be a huge box office earner because of its lead star.

I remember a former officemate, **Dennis Clemente**, who was so disappointed with the role of **Bruce Willis** in **Edward Zwick**'s "The Siege" that he remarked after watching the movie, "Even if the role was offered me, I would not accept it."

JOE D'MANGO. Exploring easy-listening music

But Dennis, who left the INQUIRER for a job in an advertising agency, will certainly die for the role of Hanks in "Cast Away." It's worthy of at least an Academy Award nomination.

Not everybody will agree with me, but I am betting my money on Hanks to get his third Oscar trophy in "Cast Away," after "Philadelphia" and "Forrest Gump." He deserves it.

I've always been a big fan of Hanks, although I don't adore him as much as I do **Mel Gibson**, my true love, and I never miss any Hanks movie. Except for "That Thing You Do," which he himself directed, Hanks has had a succession of blockbusters since **Nora Ephron**'s "Sleepless in Seattle."

"Cast Away" obviously relies on his acting prowess and box-office appeal. Two-thirds of the movie is devoted to the time Hanks, as **Chuck Noland**, a Fed-Ex systems analyst, gets stranded on an uninhabited island for four long years. There, he makes use of his survival instincts and is kept alive by his love for his girlfriend, **Kelly Frears (Helen Hunt)**.

The role is quite a downer for Hunt, herself an Academy Award winner for **James Brooks**' "As Good as It Gets," because her scenes are kept to a minimum and they're not even enough for her to really make a mark.

The drama of man versus nature becomes very evident in Chuck's isolation from the real world. He delivers heart-wrenching monologues as he talks to his make-believe friend "Wilson," a volleyball he got from one of the Fed-Ex packages swept to the shore after the plane crash.

The physical transformation of Hanks—from a stocky Fed-Ex executive to a scruffy **Robinson Crusoe**—is very impressive. I saw behind-the-scene takes of "Cast Away" on Star Movies and **Robert Zemeckis** said they had to return to the Micronesia island a year later to shoot the second half of the movie. That means after Hanks had shed off 50 pounds and grew a beard.

The movie is no tear-jerker, but being the hopeless romantic that I am, I got carried away in the scene where Chuck and Kelly are reunited in Memphis after four years, and Chuck has to face the painful reality about the present life of his girlfriend.

The scene where Chuck bravely battles the giant waves to get back to his real world kept me on the edge of my seat.

Hanks is my choice for Oscar best actor. Who's yours?

Winning documentary

WE received an e-mail from our friend, **Danton Remoto**, who relayed to us the good news that he won in the 14th CCP Awards as co-writer of the video documentary, "House Under the Crescent Moon," written, directed and produced by **Gutierrez Mangansakan II.**

JOE/ A29

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1. The "Sulit Bumalik" Program is an amnesty scheme designed for Video City members who have not visited their store for a minimum period of one (1) month to a year (from January 1, 2000 to November 30, 2000), and for members who have incurred penalties from overdue tapes
2. A *mailer* will be sent to an inactive member based on existing store data. Attached with the mailer is a waive form *that shall be presented* to the Video City store where the customer is a member.
3. Part of the mailer is a separate promo coupon. This coupon can be use to get one (1)FREE Head Cleaner by renting three (3) tapes.
4. Once inactive member redeems the headcleaner promo coupon, the member is then qualilied to receive "Sulit Umulit" promo coupons Instantly.
5. All promo coupons (ex. headcleaner coupon and Sulit Umulit coupons) are not valid with any other offer (ex. Blockbuster Movies) and shall be used per transaction/single visit only.
6. The "Sulit Bumalik" will only be valid from February 1 - February 28, 2001.

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4

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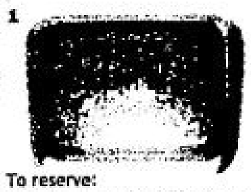
5

Click on Reserve Seats and a list of movie theaters will be shown. Choose Glorietta 4, follow the instructions on making reservations and send. Then wait for the confirmation message.

Via the familiar text-based key words of ***InfoText***

1



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type in sureseats_G4_cinema number_time_number of tickets and send to 2333 (ex. SURESEATS G4 3 06:00pm 2) and wait for reply.

2

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If you're a first time WAP-user, type in the keyword of your phone type* and send to 2333. The WAP phone configurations will be sent to you. Follow the settings and configure your phone.

2

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3

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7	DOLBY SURROUND	WOMAN ON TOP
8	DOLBY SURROUND	TUHOG

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7	DOLBY SURROUND	SNATCH
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9	DOLBY SURROUND	WOMAN ON TOP
10	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	FAMILY MAN

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3	DOLBY SURROUND	DEMON GATE
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5	DOLBY SURROUND	102 DALMATIANS
6	DOLBY SURROUND	PAY IT FORWARD
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	VERTICAL LIMIT
8	DOLBY SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME
9	DOLBY SURROUND	SNATCH
10	DOLBY SURROUND	VITAL PARTS
11	DOLBY SURROUND	TUHOG
12	DOLBY SURROUND	WOMAN ON TOP

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1	DOLBY DIGITAL	SNATCH
2	DOLBY DIGITAL	PAY IT FORWARD
3	DOLBY SURROUND	WAY OF THE GUN
4	DOLBY SURROUND	GETAWAY
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	WOMAN ON TOP
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	VERTICAL LIMIT
7	DOLBY SURROUND	BOUNCE
8	DOLBY SURROUND	102 DALMATIANS
9	DOLBY SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME
10	DOLBY SURROUND	TUHOG
11	DOLBY SURROUND	DEMON GATE
12	DOLBY SURROUND	FAMILY MAN

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2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS

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1	DOLBY DIGITAL	FAMILY MAN
2	DOLBY SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	PAY IT FORWARD
4	DTS	CAST AWAY
5	DOLBY SURROUND	WAY OF THE GUN
6	DOLBY SURROUND	SNATCH
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
9	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
10	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	DOLBY SURROUND	WAY OF THE GUN
2	DOLBY SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	DEMON GATE
4	DOLBY SURROUND	TUHOG
5	DOLBY SURROUND	SNATCH
6	DOLBY SURROUND	WOMAN ON TOP
7	DTS	PAY IT FORWARD
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	CAST AWAY
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	VERTICAL LIMIT
10	DOLBY SURROUND	BOUNCE
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	FAMILY MAN
12	DOLBY SURROUND	102 DALMATIANS

SM SOUTHMALL 8066988 • 8066762

1	ULTRA SURROUND	102 DALMATIANS
2	ULTRA SURROUND	SNATCH
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	CAST AWAY
4	ULTRA SURROUND	PAY IT FORWARD
5	ULTRA SURROUND	VIRGIN WIFE
6	ULTRA SURROUND	VERTICAL LIMIT
7	ULTRA SURROUND	DEMON GATE
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	TUSONG TWOSOME
9	ULTRA SURROUND	WOMAN ON TOP
10	ULTRA SURROUND	WAY OF THE GUN

TUTUBAN CENTER 2514302

1	ULTRA SURROUND	CAST AWAY
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	102 DALMATIANS
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TUHOG

SM CEBU 2313876

1	DOLBY SURROUND	CAST AWAY
2	ULTRA SURROUND	VERTICAL LIMIT
3	ULTRA SURROUND	BOUNCE
4	ULTRA SURROUND	VITAL PARTS
5	ULTRA SURROUND	PROOF OF LIFE
6	ULTRA SURROUND	VIRGIN WIFE
7	DOLBY SURROUND	THE YARDS

SM ILOILO 3209422

1	ULTRA SURROUND	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN MO
2	ULTRA SURROUND	WHIPPED
3	ULTRA SURROUND	VERTICAL LIMIT
4	ULTRA SURROUND	BOOBA
5	ULTRA SURROUND	MALIKOT ANG AGOS NG TUBIG
6	ULTRA SURROUND	CAST AWAY
7	ULTRA SURROUND	LITTLE NICKY
8	ULTRA SURROUND	THE YARDS

SM PAMPANGA 7128015

1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	CAST AWAY
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	102 DALMATIANS
3	DOLBY SURROUND	THE CONTENDER
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HAPLOS
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TUHOG
6	DOLBY SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME

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3	TUHOG
4	DEMON GATE

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1	THE WAY OF THE GUN in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	CAST AWAY in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	PAY IT FORWARD THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	THE ROAD HOME (Phil. Premiere) in DTS DIGITAL SOUND Art Film
5	FAMILY MAN in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	WOMAN ON TOP in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	SNATCH in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	CAST AWAY in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	WOMAN ON TOP in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	PAY IT FORWARD in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	SOON TO OPEN Onstage

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	WOMAN ON TOP THX in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	PAY IT FORWARD in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	CAST AWAY in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	SNATCH in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	FAMILY MAN in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA

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MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (SDS)	WOMAN ON TOP
2 (SDDS)	SNATCH
3 (DTS)	CAST AWAY
4 GOLD (DTS)	PAY IT FORWARD
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	WAY OF THE GUN
6 GOLD (SDDS)	FAMILY MAN
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	VERTICAL LIMIT
8 [illegible]	102 DALMATIANS
9 [illegible]	TUHOG
10 [illegible]	TUSONG TWOSOME

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	TUHOG
2	VIRGIN WIFE
3 (DTS)	CAST AWAY
4	RESERVE
5	
6 (DTS)	

Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY)	PAY IT FORWARD
2 (DTS)	ROARING LION RAGING DRAGON
3	TUHOG

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	TUHOG
2	CAST AWAY
3	TUSONG TWOSOME

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	CAST AWAY
2	TUSONG TWOSOME
3	TUHOG
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PAY IT FORWARD
5	WAY OF THE GUN

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	RESERVE
2	TUHOG
3	TUSONG TWOSOME
4	BALA KO ANG BAHALA SA 'YO
5	DEMON GATE
6	CAST AWAY
7	PAY IT FORWARD
8	WAY OF THE GUN

Uniwide Metromall
(Las Piñas) tel. 873.5606 loc. 1074
WATCH 3 MOVIE FOR ONLY ₱30.00

1	
2	NAKED LIES
3	ANG BOYFRIEND KONG PARI
4	TABI TABI PO
5	—
6	

Uniwide Coastal Mall
(Parañaque) tel 879.0001 loc. 2152
WATCH 3 MOVIE FOR ONLY ₱30.00

1	
2	TALAHIB AT ROSAS
3	LITTLE HEROES LOST IN CHINA
4	TABI TABI PO

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	BOOBA
2	VERTICAL LIMIT

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

1	RESERVE
2	TUHOG
3	RESERVE

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	TUSONG TWOSOME
A	ROARING LION RAGING DRAGON

JC Cinema
(Parañaque) tel 825.8626

1	
3	

GOTESCO CINEMAS

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	CAST AWAY
2	WAY OF THE GUN
3	DEMON GATE
4	FAMILY MAN
5	TUSONG TWOSOME
6	TUHOG
7 (DTS)	PAY IT FORWARD
8 (SDDS)	SNATCH
9 (DOLBY)	WOMAN ON TOP

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	TUSONG TWOSOME
3	ROARING LION RAGING DRAGON
4	TUHOG
5	
6	

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	TUHOG
2	TUSONG TWOSOME
3	WAY OF THE GUN
4 (SDDS)	PAY IT FORWARD
5	DEMON GATE
6 (DOLBY)	SNATCH
7 (DTS)	CAST AWAY
8	BALA KO ANG BAHALA SA 'YO
9	HAPLOS

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	CAST AWAY
2	TUSONG TWOSOME
3	TUHOG
4	DEMON GATE
5 (SDDS)	SNATCH
6	WAY OF THE GUN
7 (DOLBY)	PAY IT FORWARD
8	HAPLOS

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	DEMON GATE
2	HAPLOS
3 (DTS)	ROARING LION RAGING DRAGON
4	TUHOG
5 (SDDS)	102 DALMATIANS
6 (DOLBY)	PAY IT FORWARD
7 (DOLBY)	TUSONG TWOSOME

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	TUHOG

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	TUHOG

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	TUHOG
Lords	HAPLOS
Jennet	TUHOG

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	TUHOG
2	TUSONG TWOSOME
3	PAY IT FORWARD
4	ROARING LION RAGING DRAGON

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

1	
3	TUSONG TWOSOME

Super Cinerama
(Manila) tel 733.4226 or 733.4238

1	CAST AWAY
2	TUHOG
3	ROARING LION RAGING DRAGON
4	TUSONG TWOSOME
5	PAY IT FORWARD

Divisoria Mall
(Manila) tel 244.4560 or 244.4619

1	TUSONG TWOSOME
2	TUHOG
3	BALA KO ANG BAHALA SA 'YO
4	VIRGIN WIFE
5	ROARING LION RAGING DRAGON
6	HAPLOS

Baclaran LRT Cinema
tel 512.0115 or 512.0116

1	TUHOG
2	TUSONG TWOSOME
3	ROARING LION RAGING DRAGON

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	TUSONG TWOSOME
2	TUHOG
3 (DTS)	CAST AWAY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	TUHOG
2 (DTS)	TUSONG TWOSOME
3 (DOLBY)	CAST AWAY
4	HAPLOS

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	TUHOG
2	ROARING LION RAGING DRAGON
3	WAY OF THE GUN
4 (DTS)	TUSONG TWOSOME

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	THE CONTENDER
2	TUSONG TWOSOME
3 (DTS)	CAST AWAY
4	TUHOG
5	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	TUHOG
2	TUSONG TWOSOME
3	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	TUHOG
2	TUSONG TWOSOME
3	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	HAPLOS
2	102 DALMATIANS
3	IKA - 7 GLORYA

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	THE CONTENDER
2	BALA KO ANG BAHALA SA 'YO
3	TUSONG TWOSOME

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	TUSONG TWOSOME
2	TUHOG
3	ROARING LION RAGING DRAGON
4	HAPLOS

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 243.2783

1 (DTS)	TUHOG
2 (DTS)	HAPLOS

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	TUSONG TWOSOME

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
2	TUSONG TWOSOME
3	BALA KO ANG BAHALA SA 'YO

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	VIRGIN WIFE
2	VITAL PARTS
3	BALA KO ANG BAHALA SA 'YO
4	WHAT WOMEN WANT

Berma
tel 879.2168

1	
2	

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	CAST AWAY
2	TUHOG
3	TUSONG TWOSOME
4	102 DALMATIANS

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	CAST AWAY
2	TUSONG TWOSOME
3	FAMILY MAN
4 (DTS EX)	102 DALMATIANS

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

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One giddily happy ending coming up

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

"LAKAS at Pag-ibig" is a movie about the local bold film scene that has a strangely self-contradictory view of its material.

One part of the movie says that sexy flicks exert a negative influence on society, that producers exploit their nubile stars, that bold performers are cheap users and abusers.

On the other hand, the film itself has titillating sexy scenes and some of the same cheap elements that it is railing against! This must be what they mean about the left hand not knowing what the right hand is doing . . .

The story's resident sexy virago is local movies' "reigning" bold beauty, *pa*-cutely screen-named **Melody Amor**. She really feels and acts like a queen, using her clout with producers to abort the careers of new starlets like the one played by **Daisy Reyes.**

But it turns out that the body of the film is not really about the two women's rivalry. Instead, it deals with what happens when the bold queen and her retinue (her driver-lover, her ingenue sister, her PR and his latest toy boy) end up in the middle of nowhere, and their vehicle's engine conks out.

A family offers to put them up for the night, but instead of being grateful, the bold star treats the women in the household like her servants, and goes to bed with all of the menfolk, including a young virgin who wants to become a priests!

Much of this is really quite nonsensical, but the movie sometimes comes up with pungent observations that have a pertinent point to make. Unfortunately, these aren't enough to make the film a productive viewing experience.

Meanwhile, back at the movie studio, the sweet starlet is suddenly kidnapped by some goons, but she finds a hero in a male star who rescues her from her attackers. Whereupon her producer ups and declares that he's going to give up producing exploitative sexy flicks, and

ONE / A30

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3. TUSONG TWOSOME
4. WOMAN ON TOP
5. DEMON GATE
6. PAY IT FORWARD
7. THE FAMILY MAN

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3. DEMON GATE
4. CAST AWAY
5. TUSONG TWOSOME
6. 102 DALMATIANS

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1. VERTICAL LIMIT
2. CAST AWAY
3. WHAT WOMEN WANT
4. BOUNCE
5. TABI TABI PO
6. SYOTA NG BAYAN

DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	TUHOG
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	TUSONG 2 SOME
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	CAST AWAY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SNATCH
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	PAY IT FORWARD
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	102 DALMATIANS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	WAY OF THE GUN
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	PAY IT FORWARD
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	TUHOG
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	PAY IT FORWARD
MIRAMAR	ARAYY / HUNGER FOR LOVE
ODEON	WAY OF THE GUN
ODEON-2	SHADOW OF MARTIAL ARTS
ROBEN	TUSONG 2 SOME
TANDEM-1	IKA PITONG GLORIA
TANDEM-2	VIRGIN WIFE
TIMES	UNBREAKABLE / REPLACEMENT
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	ANAK NG YAKUSA
ACT-2	ANAK NG KANO
ACT-3	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
ACT-4	TURN ON
CORONET-2	TUHOG
QUEZON-1	TUSONG 2 SOME
REMAR	TUSONG 2 SOME
REMAR-2	SHADOW OF MARTIAL ARTS
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	TUHOG
OCEAN CINEMA-A	BOYFRIEND KONG PARI
OCEAN CINEMA-B	KATAYAN
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	PAY IT FORWARD
CINEMA-2	SNATCH
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	TUHOG
CINEMA-2	TUSONG TWOSOME
CINEMA-3	FAMILY MAN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	WAY OF THE GUN
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	VERTICAL LIMIT
CINEMA-6	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
CINEMA-7	VIRGIN WIFE
CINEMA-8	ROARING LION RAGING DRAGON
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	CAST AWAY
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PAY IT FORWARD
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	102 DALMATIANS
CINEMA-12	SNATCH
CINEMA-14	DEMON GATE
CINEMA-15	TUSONG TWOSOME
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
CINEMA-3	LAKAS AT PAG IBIG
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	102 DALMATIANS
CINEMA-2	CAST AWAY
CINEMA-3	PAY IT FORWARD
CINEMA-4	FAMILY MAN
CINEMA-5	SNATCH
CINEMA-6	WOMAN ON TOP

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THE FAMILY MAN
(PG 13 RT - 2:00)

February 23 - Friday
6:00 PM - Pay It Forward
8:35 PM - Pay It Forward
11:10 PM - Pay It Forward

HANNIBAL (R-18)
Anthony Hopkins & Julianne Moore
opens Wednesday Feb. 28

Get a copy of the 3rd issue of Pelikula! A Journal of Philippine Cinema and learn more about Comedy King Dolphy and other Filipino artist, Movie fans & idols. Watch out for our 4th issue WOMEN IN CINEMA coming out in March! Pelikula is one of the beneficiary projects of the LRP Foundation published jointly with the U.P. College of Mass Communication

Hear the Difference, Feel the Excitement!

One giddily happy ending coming up

(From page A28)

will make "wholesome," "quality" movies instead!

One giddily happy ending coming up—whether we're ready for it or not!

Correction

FROM **Emily Jane Estrada** of San Pedro, Laguna: "Re your Feb. 19 article, 'From Sweet to Sizzling,' I'd like to correct you: It was **Alessandra de Rossi** and not her sister **Assunta** who played the lead role in 'Azucena.' I enjoy reading your column so much . . ."

'Legacy 2001' at the Pen

DO MAKE time to catch the "Legacy 2001: Pamana ng Pilipino sa Kultura ng Mundo" exhibit-sale enjoying at the gallery of the Peninsula Manila Hotel until Feb. 25. We attended the exhibit-sale's opening on Feb. 19 and found the crafts on exhibit both fascinating and affordable.

Modules include:

—"A Mosaic: Filipino Tribes," featuring selected works of the country's major ethnolinguistic tribes through the joint efforts of Island Finds and OLM Treasures.

("Mosaic" will be mounted next at the KLCC Mall in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, this June to celebrate Philippine Independence Day and enhance the market development of our tribal products.)

- "Makati: International City," showcasing artworks and livelihood products.
- " Remembrance of Things Past," underscoring the diversity of Philippine culture through the collections of the Philippine Nomismatic and Antiquarian Society, Limited Editions, Katutubo Artifacts and Crafts, and Circa.
- "Batangas: Pride in Roots," showcasing the province's livelihood programs and products.
- "Reaching Out: Breaking Barriers," featuring the artworks of the academic community of Southville International School.
- "A Kaleidoscope of Filipino Artistry and Design," highlighting the works of the very gifted **Ugo Bigyan**, **Benji Reyes** and **Louie Stuart**.
- "Cultural Ties that Bind: The Rotarian Experience," presented by the Rotary Club of Makati Salcedo (RCMS) and its RCMS Foundation.
- "Empowered Communities," with focus on products produced by NGO-assisted communities.

The "Legacy 2001" exhibit-sale is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. Remember, you have only until Feb. 25 to catch it. For more information, call Museo ng Makati and Makati's Cultural Affairs Office (tel. 896-0277) or the Rotary Club of Makati Salcedo (848-6231).

AYALA CINEMAS
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LAST MAIN FEATURE SCHEDULES
FOR
FEB. 23 (Fri.) to 24 (Sat.)

PAY IT FORWARD (PG-13)
ALABANG TOWN CENTER 10:30 PM
GLORIETTA 4 12:00 MN
GREENBELT 10:55 PM

WOMAN ON TOP (PG-13)
ALABANG TOWN CENTER 12:15 AM
GLORIETTA 4 11:10 PM
GREENBELT 10:30 PM

SNATCH (R)
ALABANG TOWN CENTER 11:00 PM
GLORIETTA 4 12:00 MN

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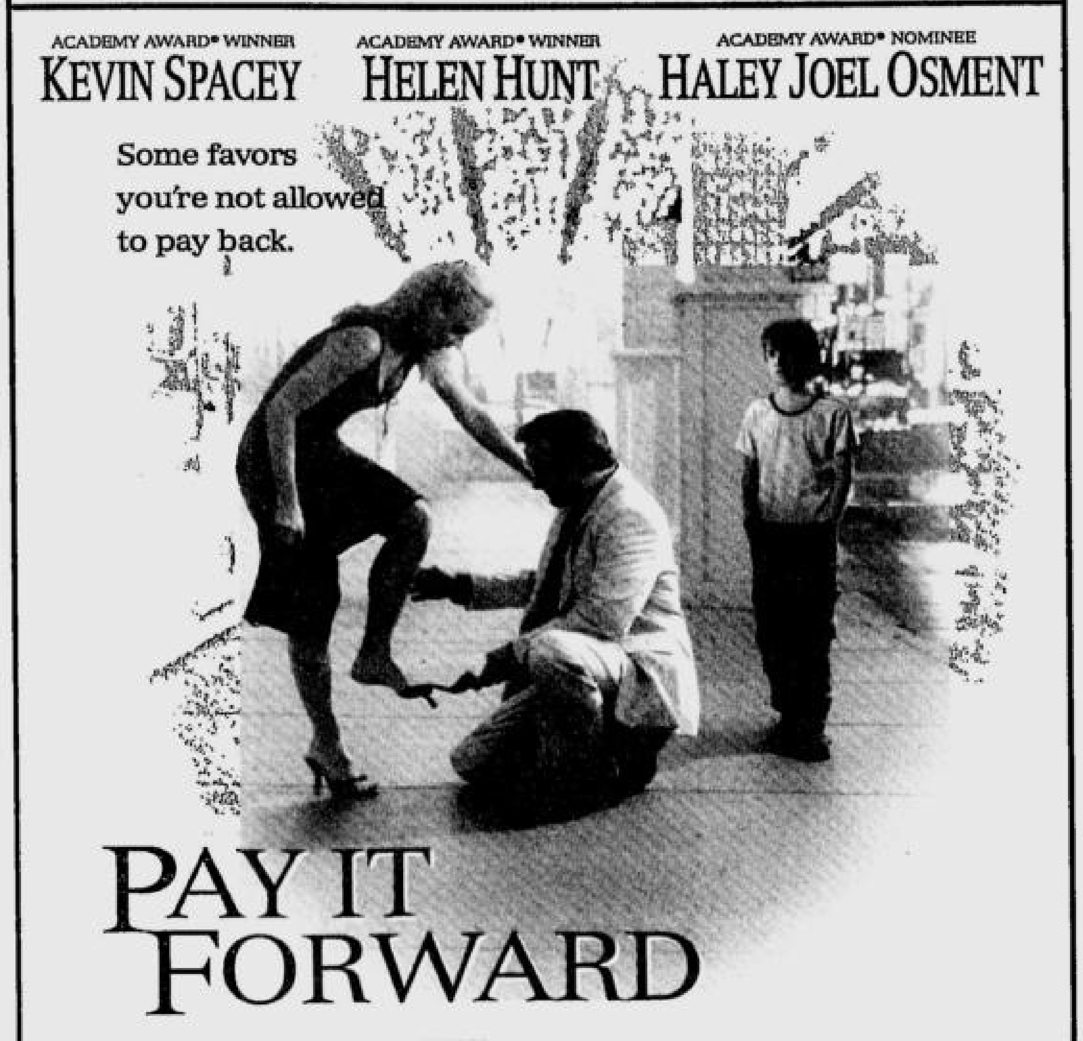

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88.3 89.9 MAGIC

Joe D'Mango says goodbye

(From page A25)

Danton, a prize-winning author, gay rights activist and Ateneo de Manila professor, is now in New Jersey on a one-year Fulbright Fellowship at Rutgers University.

He also co-produced the docu which will be shown at the "Pelikula at Lipunan" film festival at SM Manila (behind City Hall), 6:30 tonight and 11 a.m. tomorrow, Saturday.

"House Under the Crescent Moon" is about the personal and political reflections of Mangansakan, the grandson of Datu **Udtog Matalam**, former governor of the undivided empire of Cotabato from 1946-1968. Mangansakan has an AB in Communication Arts from Ateneo de Davao University and completed a filmmaking course at the Mowelfund Institute. He was a young artist's residency grantee of the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

Danton also co-wrote the first prize winner for documentary, "The Last Parian," written and directed by **Peter Chua**, also a graduate of Ateneo de Manila University. **Boy Yñiguez** was director of photography, while the music came from award-winning **Nonong Buencamino**. Another co-writer is **Charlson Ong**.

TODAY AT SM CITY MANILA
8th Pelikula at Lipunan 2001
11 am
Peter Chua's THE LAST PARIAN
1:30 pm
AUSTRALIAN SHORTS
4 pm
Jon Red's STILL LIVES
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102 DALMATIANS - G 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45	CAST AWAY - P 13 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00	PAY IT FORWARD - P 13 11:40, 2:15, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50
THE FAMILY MAN - P 13 11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00	SNATCH - R 18 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:30	WOMAN ON TOP - P 13 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30

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THE REPEAT

I did not write that e-mail, II

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

(Continued from Monday)

IF I wanted to express my opinion, quickly, in an unabbreviated and direct manner, why would I resort to e-mail when I already have the forum of live television via the country's No. 1 network, and my column in the country's No. 1 newspaper?

I've always been opinionated, and I've always stood by whatever choices I've made in life, regardless of their consequences. Haven't I been accused often enough of being "tactless" and being "too outspoken for my own good"?

I find it hard to fathom why the author of those statements felt the need to appropriate words I had written in this column and attach to it his or her own sentiments.

Was my name a convenient shield for words and accusations you wanted to express but sadly didn't have the balls to stand up for? If you're anti-Erap and anti-Binay, I assume you've come to that stand based on your own moral and intellectual discernment.

We live in a democracy and we are all entitled to have our own views and political leanings, but the principles of democracy also require the individual to be responsible for and vigilant in the protection of those rights. If you yourself don't have enough faith in what you write, how can you expect people to have faith in what you say?

If you're strongly opposed to the **Ejercito-Estradas** and the **Binays** maintaining their strongholds in San Juan and Makati, respectively, then my advice is that you have enough courage to truly stand up against them and don't hide behind my name.

How can you ever be a worthy adversary if you don't make yourself known? I don't cast judgment nor am I defending **Jinggoy**, **JV** and **Jojo Binay**, but they do have the guts to have their constituents judge their actions and their principles. In a democracy such as ours, their fate is in the hands of the voters.

Patterson's politics

ONE of the birthday presents I appreciated the most was the book "Protect and Defend" written by one of my favorite authors, **Richard North Patterson**. The book is almost 550 pages long and its subject matter is a definite lightning rod for impassioned debates.

The book tackles the political maneuverings of a newly elected Democratic president of the United States to ensure the confirmation of the appointment of his choice for the Chief Justice of US Supreme Court. The presidents choice is a woman named **Caroline Masters**, and she's forced to render a decision on a controversial case, the right of a minor to override her pro-life parents' unwillingness to give their consent for her to have a late-term abortion.

There are many aspects of this book that made me review my ethnical stands. **Mary Ann Tierney**, the 15-year-old girl, pregnant with a son with a disproportionately enlarged, fluid-filled head and a high probability of no brain development, wants to terminate her pregnancy because she is afraid of what a classical Caesarian might do to her chances of reproducing in the future.

Her parents want her to see the pregnancy through out of their religious convictions to respect all forms of life, and their long-held belief that abortion is tantamount to murdering an innocent life.

That the child will most likely not survive outside the mother's womb is the central cause for debate. Is it really killing a child, in order to preserve the chances of another child to bear more children in the future, considering that without brain development the fetus will also be dead upon birth?

As a Catholic, I agreed with the principles invoked by the parents of Mary Ann Tierney. No matter the risk to the mother's future reproductive health, a person doesn't hold it in her hands to end the life of another regardless of the "viability" of that life. Yet Patterson was able to demonstrate fully in this book how ethical questions and religious stands may be exploited by people who have a deeper political agenda.

Ultimately this book demonstrates how far politicians will go in order to ensure their survival, and the methods that those whose views we may agree with will sometimes make us regretful of the allies we are forced to make.

Patterson tackles the power plays involved in the highest levels of the United States government, from the Office of the President, to the Senate, to the Supreme Court.

This book, although dealing strictly with a very American issue (abortion rights), which thankfully our country has been spared from, mirrors how important it is for power to be in the hands of men and women who may be ultimately after the preservation and widening of their influence and power but who are still morally capable of doing it in ways that put them at a level higher than others who will sacrifice everything and everyone in their pursuit of victory.

"Protect and Defend" is a perfect book to read during this time that leads to our May elections. It reinforces the need to vote responsibly because the men and women we elect will hold our lives and our futures in their hands.

New live theater opens at Greenbelt

AYALA Land launches today its newest live entertainment hotspot, Onstage, inside the Greenbelt Mall.

Onstage is an 800-seater theater that can accommodate all kinds of productions.

Heading the list of performers in the launch are The CompanY, Jon Santos, Randy Santiago, Ella Mae Saison, Wolfgang, Malik and Lani Misalucha, with maestro Ryan Cayabyab as host.

Among the theater groups performing are the Philippine Opera Co., Neo Classic Ensemble, Kaloob, Gypsies, Playshop Kids, Trumpets, Gantimpala Theater Foundation, Dulaang Talyer, Actors Actors Inc., Musikat and the Philippine Ballet Theater.

A lifestyle fashion showcase features the designs of the different clothing shops in Greenbelt.

For show inquiries or reservations, call Lissa Japsay or Rully Duenas at 752-7877 or 752-7862.

'PisTA' at the Shang

SHANGRI-LA Plaza Mall joins the National Commission for Culture and Arts (NCCA) in celebrating National Arts Month with Philstage's "PisTA (Philstage is Together Again) on Feb. 24 at 6 p.m. and Feb. 25 at 7:30 p.m. at the mall's Grand Atrium.

The show brings together nine theater groups in a musical revue featuring the '60s, with numbers by Philstage talents like Carlo Orosa, Giancarlo Magdangal and Melanie Dujungco, among others. Admission is free.

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BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

Bangko Sentral keeps rates steady

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE POLICY-MAKING Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has rejected recommendations of the National Treasury to cut interest rates ahead of the US Federal Reserve.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said "downside risks" to inflation cautioned monetary authorities against reducing the central bank's policy rates further from its current levels of 11 percent for overnight borrowing and 13.25 percent for overnight lending.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said the BSP must take a pro-active stance and lower rates ahead of the US Federal Reserve. US monetary authorities are scheduled to meet on March 20 and analysts expect another round of rate cut from the current 5.5 percent.

Edeza's pitch was meant to help ease the government's borrowing rate further in the auction of treasury bills on Monday. Without the BSP's rate cut, the benchmark 91-day treasury bill rate would stay at current levels.

"While current inflationary pressures appear benign, there are downside risks that dictate a circumspect approach in further reducing policy rates," Buenaventura said.

The BSP chief, however, said inflation would likely average at 6 percent this year and not 8 percent as what the International Monetary Fund had earlier projected.

Still, he explained that dragging interest rates at this point would only put pressure for prices to go up, thus raise inflation. Lower interest rates usually expand money supply as it discourages banks from parking their money in the BSP's vaults and, at the same time, encourages people to borrow from banks.

The government borrows P4 billion weekly from the market by issuing treasury bills and another P3 billion through treasury bonds with varying long-term maturity.

The new administration believed that a low interest rate regime was the best way to stimulate the economy.

Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo said he hoped the benchmark borrowing rate of the government would slip to 10 percent in the near future not only to bring down the cost of state borrowings but also to encourage growth in credit since the 91-day yield is used by banks to price their loans.

The BSP had vowed to pursue a modest rate cut as soon as the US Federal Reserve brings down policy rates anew, hopefully in March or possibly even sooner.

"If the Fed cuts further we could calibrate our own cuts. The way I look at it, cuts from the Fed are still forthcoming although they may not be as deep as what was earlier expected," Buenaventura said.

He also noted that the differential between local and US rates must remain healthy and attractive for foreign investors to consider parking their money in the Philippines.

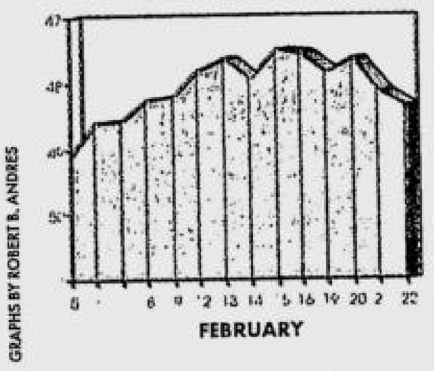
Compared to the US short-term rate of 5.5 percent, the net yield of 8.8 percent (11 percent minus 20-percent withholding tax) given by the BSP offers a rates differential of 3.3 percent.

Bank analysts said a range of 3 to 4 percent was an acceptable level.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

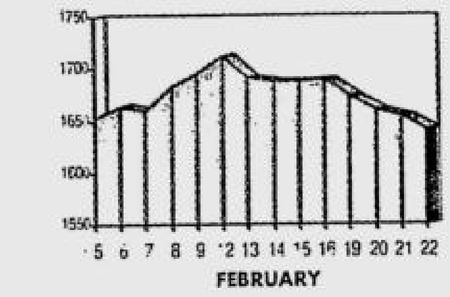
P 48.35 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Feb. 22, 2001

¥ 116.16 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 116.16 as of 5 p.m., Feb. 22, 2001

GOLD:$257.80/258.30
per ounce Hong Kong, Feb. 22, 2001

STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Shares end down

SHARES finished lower yesterday, pressured by renewed political concern after a Supreme Court resolution that traders say appears favorable to deposed leader Joseph Estrada.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange index ended down 13.81 points, or 0.8 percent, to 1641.05, adding to a 0.3 percent loss Wednesday. The index has shed nearly 3 percent since Monday.

"Investors have pulled back and are waiting to see what will happen in the political front," said Spencer Yap, BPI Securities assistant vice president.

Estrada's questioning of the legitimacy of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's administration continued to weigh on shares, traders said.

Also contributing was the 1.9-percent fall of the Dow Jones Industrial Average Wednesday, the weak peso and the central bank's decision

SHARES/ B4

Lower net loss seen for PNB

PHILIPPINE National Bank could post a net loss of about P2 billion in 2000 or swing back into the black for the first time in three years depending on how the bank treats its assets, analysts said.

But not many investors are looking at last year's bottom line earnings of PNB, the country's fifth-largest bank.

Given the risks involved in the bank due to its exposure to bad loans, analysts said the fair value for the stock is a little over half of its current share price, with hardly any investor willing to pick up the stock right now.

Analysts said the fair value for PNB is at P17, against its current share price of P36, up 50 centavos on Wednesday.

"It (PNB profit) depends on how they will be treating provisioning and asset quality . . . The operational numbers may not mean anything. It's really about what kind of provisioning they will be putting up for bad loans," said Ismael Pili, regional banking analyst of Indosuez W.I. Carr in Singapore.

Multex Global Estimates forecast a net loss of P2.46 billion for PNB or a loss per share of P9.70 in 2000.

An analyst from a foreign brokerage house who asked not to be named said excluding loan-loss provisions, PNB could report a 2000 net profit of about P1.2 billion.

The bank reported a net loss of P9.87 billion in 1999, the second year it posted a loss. *Reuters*

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Customs seen hiring inspection company

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MACAPAGAL administration is studying a proposal to again hire a pre-shipment inspection firm to check the unregulated entry of hazardous materials to the country.

In an interview yesterday, Customs Commissioner Titus Villanueva said a proposal to again use a private company that would provide pre-shipment inspection services was brought up during a recent Cabinet meeting.

The proposal surfaced after it was reported that there had been a resurgence of questionable importation of highly toxic materials into the Philippines, he said.

"This has been discussed and a group has come up with a proposal," said Villanueva. He refused to name the group.

He stressed, however, that there was still no order from the Department of Finance or the Office of the President to turn over to the private sector the government's pre-shipment inspection system..

Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo confirmed that the Bureau of Customs recommended that a pre-shipment inspection firm be hired to check the unregulated entry of hazardous waste materials into the Philippines.

The Aquino and Ramos administrations employed the services of Swiss pre-shipment inspection firm Societe Generale de Surveillance to curb smuggling and streamline the country's customs procedures.

Imports bearing the SGS seal were no longer inspected by local customs officials. These were assumed to have been inspected by the SGS and properly declared in the countries where they came from.

Former President Joseph Estrada terminated the government's $100-million contract with SGS because of his administration's problem with its budget deficit. SGS was then seeking over $121.6 million in compensation.

The Estrada administration accredited 120 importers and placed them in its "super green lane." Importers using this lane would simply declare their imports and the agency would honor their statements.

In exchange for the trust, the previous government could audit any of the accredited companies at their factories and that any misdeclaration would be exposed to the media and the company would be blacklisted.

Business groups had complained that without SGS, smuggling could worsen as importers could misdeclare the value of their imports as there was no verification of the receipts abroad.

Although without a contract with the customs bureau, SGS still maintains a presence in the Philippines. It is now concentrating in setting up its backroom operations in Laguna.

The customs bureau is now basing its pre-shipment inspection on transaction value from home consumption value. Transaction value is the new process of valuing imports based on the requirements imposed by the World Trade Organization.

GOINGS-ON

Aspac CEOs to meet in RP

CHIEF executives in the Asia-Pacific region of Paris-based Publicis Groupe, a global marketing communications network and Europe's largest, will hold a meeting in Manila from Feb. 23 to 25 to be led by Maurice Levy, chair and chief executive.

The meeting will also be participated in by Bertrand Siguier, EVP Publicis Worldwide; Patrick Pitcher, chair of Saatchi & Saatchi for Asia and Africa, and Patrick Brett, chief operating officer of Saatchi & Saatchi for Southeast Asia and Africa. The Publicis executives will review their clients' needs and the network's structures, organizations and budgets in the region.

Smart Money wins GSM award

SMART Communications Inc. has won an award for providing the "most innovative GSM wireless service" to its customers in the 3GSM World Congress in Cannes, France, with its "electronic wallet" service called Smart Money.

Launched in December 2000, Smart Money is the world's first and only reloadable electronic cash card linked to a cellular phone. This new service was chosen by the GSM Association over three competing finalists submitted by three European operators.

Banks buck move to rehabilitate NSC

By Elena R. Torrijos

CREDITOR banks of National Steel Corp. have opposed a petition to return proceedings for the ailing steel firm back to rehabilitation from liquidation.

In documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, the steering committee of NSC creditor banks consisting of Equitable PCI Bank Inc., Philippine National Bank, Land Bank of the Philippines, Global Business Bank and Credit Agricole Indosuez noted that the requested move was "baseless."

The committee of banks noted the petition for the return was filed by the De Castro and Cagampang law offices purportedly on behalf of NSC, but records showed that the law firm entered its appearance in the case only for Hottick Investment Ltd., the Malaysian majority owner of NSC.

The lawyers had also asked the SEC to give NSC 90 days to submit a rehabilitation plan and, in the meantime, appoint a receiver. They argued that the SEC hearing panel did not terminate rehabilitation proceedings with a required notice and hearing.

Creditor banks noted that nowhere in SEC's rules was a requirement for notice and hearing before rehabilitation proceedings could be terminated.

The banks noted that SEC rules, in fact, required the SEC to dissolve and liquidate a corporation subject of a failed rehabilitation proceeding.

Introducing the labor secretary

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

HOW do you introduce a great personality without sounding as if you patronize, much less compromise to some degree, her greatness? How do you speak about a woman of substance without diminishing at all her substantiality? How does one pay tribute to womanhood without sounding sexist or attempting to highlight gender in an arena where gender is impertinent? Indeed, how can human language portray professional excellence without diminishing excellence itself? How do you write well about a very accomplished writer herself?

Precisely, these are my points of quandary today as I contemplate on the somehow difficult task of introducing the Honorable Patricia Aragon Sto. Tomas to the 1,000 human resources managers in the country during our general membership meeting on Feb. 28 at AIM's Acceed Center in Makati. This is PMAP, the true and authentic one, not the pro-Erap crowd in Mendiola, but the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines. This is where Frank Drilon started before President Cory recruited him to DOLE in the late '80s from Accra to balance and check Bobbit Sanchez's undisguised biases and leanings. This is PMAP, an august body of HR professionals led by Freddie Marquez of Guoco. Today, PMAP will pay a courtesy call to the lady.

Why introduce Pat?

What's the rationale for making a fuss of introducing a widely known public official? By now, all HR managers nationwide whisper her name, all trade union leaders talk about her, all businessmen and their executives are instructing their staff to determine her address, her cell-phone number, her fax, her e-mail address. She is "the" labor secretary who will make critical decisions about employment, labor standards, labor relations and a thousand and one official matters that directly affect jobs, wages, incomes and, therefore, business itself, and, if you will, life in general.

We have to introduce her because she is too well-known and yet so unknown. Everybody knows that she is an outstanding career executive service official who has had successful stints in DOLE, POEA, Civil Service Commission and ILMS. But everyone is asking what is her policy on employment, her thinking about contractualization, her attitude about wages and incomes, her paradigm about labor management relations, and her notions about unions, collective bargaining and strikes. What does she think about rightsizing, corporate mergers, acquisition, retrenchments and redundancies?

We have to introduce Pat so that she will be the one to tell you about her thoughts on matters you guys are much concerned about. And if you really care, you've got to come yourselves on the last Wednesday of February and break bread with the lady of the hour as she will outline her agenda, her platform of labor administration until 2004 and even beyond, if GMA makes it again.

Past is present

PAST stands for Patricia Aragon Sto. Tomas, and she stands for the challenges of the PRESENT. A lady who is so simple and yet so complicated in her simplicity. If she'd have her way, she would rather be tending her dream orchidarium somewhere in Davao or be with her family. But she has a lot of brains and passions that it would be a pity for the nation if she would not share her professional excellence in leading and managing a bureaucracy that she is too familiar to abandon altogether.

The bureaucracy, Pat so loves passionately and also so deeply abhors. She loves the challenges of policymaking and policy implementation. She enjoys the excitement of decision-making, the thrills of problem solving and the drama of conflict resolutions. And yet, she abhors the slow pace, the red tapes, the intrigues and politics in certain offices. She hates incompetence and detests corruption.

Pat excels in the acid test

My good friend, Dr. Tony Roldan, a noted OD scientist of world caliber, once shared with me his concoction for public office qualification standards. ACID stands for Availability, Competence, Integrity and Dedication. Pat not just passes but surpasses the ACID test. She is AVAILABLE, willing to serve, ready to offer her brains and passions. She has no baggage to carry, no corrupt relatives, no business connections, no conflict of interest. She is definitely COMPETENT. She topped the Career Executive Service Development Program, a nine-month, live-in, grueling and cruel training program for government executives with an unprecedented rating of OUTSTANDING.

She proved her mettle in the POEA, in the Civil Service Commission, in DOLE. Wherever she was, she delivered results. No fanfare. No blowing of horns. She is a silent achiever. And her INTEGRITY is beyond reproach. No shade of irregularity. Her DEDICATION is legendary. A workaholic, career woman through and through, loyal to the service and ever reliable to clients, peers and subordinates.

Pat is a living tribute to womanhood. Have you guys ever thought why the symbol of justice is a woman and the statue of liberty is a lady? I'll tell you why.

Excellence, not gender

At the end of the day, however, it is not gender that will define success but excellence. The name of Pat Sto. Tomas will be remembered in the history of Philippine labor administration not because of, or in spite of, her gender but because she is highly competent. Her passion to serve and to create meaningful differences in the lives of people is unquenchable. Her integrity is beyond the faintest shadow of doubt and her dedication amazing.

By the way, there is one more quality that makes her truly a gem—humility. She'd call you and tell your secretary that this is Pat Sto. Tomas. No mention of rank. No reference to power or position, in a soft-spoken, unassuming voice. And she'd talk with you as if you deserve the half an hour of a Cabinet member's precious time. Want to see her? Come to PMAP, Feb. 28. What a pity if you won't.

Fact Sheet

The Impsa-CBK Project

☐ *Fact # 1.* **The deal between Impsa and Napocor was sealed during the term of deposed President Joseph Estrada, and was brokered by presidential friend Mark Jimenez.** *(Headlined by the Manila Times wherein Erap stood as "unwitting ninong" of the deal, and as per published statements of former Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu)*

☐ *Fact # 2.* **Impsa won the Caliraya-Bacnotan-Kalayaan power plant project although its bid is higher than that of its rivals.** *(Privilege speech of Sen. Sergio Osmeña III, Philippine Senate, 21 March 2000)*

☐ *Fact # 3.* **Impsa has put up a Philippine subsidiary called CBK Power Corp. with a capital stock of P100,000, of which only P25,000 has been subscribed to and paid up.** *(Privilege speech of Sen. Sergio Osmeña III, Philippine Senate, 21 March 2000)*

☐ *Fact # 4.* **Napocor 'exempted' Impsa from paying $70.8 million security deposit for the hydro-electric power plant project.** *(Privilege speech of Sen. Sergio Osmeña III, Philippine Senate, 21 March 2000)*

☐ *Fact # 5.* **Impsa, an Argentinian firm, was suspended by the government of Costa Rica from bidding in its power generation projects.** *(Privilege speech of Sen. Sergio Osmeña III, Philippine Senate, 21 March 2000)*

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AUTOS, CATTLE

Gov't to correct erroneous tariffs

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE CABINET-LEVEL Tariff and Related Matters will issue an executive order this month to correct a directive issued by former President Joseph Estrada which erroneously jacked up duties on commercial vehicles and feeder cattle.

Estrada signed EO 334 last month implementing the schedule of tariffs from 2001 to 2004. Duties on completely knocked down (CKD) parts or assembly kits for trucks and buses and feeder cattle were jacked up from 3 percent to 10 percent over the next three years.

The government has admitted to making a mistake in amending the order involving these products whose tariffs should have been maintained at their 2000 levels in order to help manufacturers remain viable amid the economic slowdown.

Trade Assistant Secretary Jose Antonio Buencamino said assemblers of Asian utility vehicles, vans, pick-up trucks, and buses would be able to get a refund from the government's mistake because the changes would be retroactive. Tariff revisions on feeder cattle, however, would not be retroactive.

Buencamino said the government did not hold public hearings on the tariff changes because "the mistakes were an honest mistake by government personnel."

Toyota Motor Philippines Corp.'s Serafin Pantaleon had asked the government to immediately correct this mistake because the industry has been incurring roughly P100 million in additional costs a month.

Buencamino said the planned EO did not address the appeal of the Coconut Oil Refiners Association to lower the duties on palm oil and coconut oil which was feared to hinder the development of the coconut industry.

Under EO 334, duties on palm and coconut oil would be cut from 20 percent last year to 15 percent this year, 10 percent in 2002, 7 percent in 2003, and 5 percent in 2004. Buencamino said these tariff rates would be maintained.

PDIC seeks new merger, rehab offers for Urban

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PHILIPPINE Insurance Corp. yesterday said it was reopening its doors for new rehabilitation or merger proposals for Urban Bank Corp. after Bank of Commerce formally dropped its offer and plans for the ailing bank.

"They (Bank of Commerce) said that given the legal issues, they would set aside their firm interests in Urban and allow us to look at other proposals so as not to hold back the plan for the depositors," said PDIC president Norberto Nazareno.

PDIC gave Bank of Commerce one week ending last Tuesday to decide whether to pursue its merger plans with Urban Bank.

PDIC yesterday met with Bank of Commerce officials, and the shareholders and major depositors of the closed bank yesterday. He said that PDIC, as the receiver of Urban Bank, would start accepting new proposals and hasten the much-delayed rehabilitation of the bank.

Urban Bank declared a holiday and was subsequently closed by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas on April 26 last year. The bank had over 14,000 depositors and deposits of P9.1 billion of which, only P560,000 was insured.

Bank of Commerce's offer to rehabilitate Urban Bank was chosen over the proposal of Asia United Bank, owned by Jacinto Ng who also owns Rebisco Corp.

Bank of Commerce had planned to reopen Urban in September but the schedule was postponed indefinitely as major depositors tried to obtain some improvements in the offer.

The bank, controlled by the family of Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco and College Assurance Plan group, had second thoughts about taking over Urban Bank after the controversies on former President Joseph Estrada's account in the bank surfaced.

PDIC's Nazareno said the three major depositors—San Miguel Corp. with P1.2 billion, Petron Corp. with P1 billion and Manila Electric Co. with P500 million—have affirmed their commitment to convert part of their deposits into equities.

Urban shareholder Social Security System also vowed to pursue with other groups the same terms it had offered to Bank of Commerce. SSS had agreed to infuse P600 million into the merger of Bank of Commerce and Urban.

Bank of Commerce president Raul de Mesa earlier said the issues involving Urban Bank including the allegations raised by two solons that former Estrada withdrew P143.7 million from the bank two days before it declared a bank holiday on April 16 would affect the viability of the merger.

There had been allegations that the BSP had hastily closed Urban Bank so that Bank of Commerce, rumored to be partly owned by Estrada, could take over.

De Mesa said there had been a lot of "worrying issues" thrown along the way that made a merger with Urban Bank far more complex than what was anticipated.

Napocor sales down 2.8%

By Ronnel W. Domingo

AN 8.15-percent decline in the Manila Electric Co.'s power purchases pulled down National Power Corp.'s sales for 2000 by 2.79 percent.

Napocor said it sold 35.12 gigawatt-hours of electricity in 2000, down from 36.13 gwh in 1999.

The state-run power firm's market analysis and load forecasting division attributed the decrease in sales to Meralco's contracting purchases. The Lopez-owned power distributor is Napocor's biggest customer.

Meralco used to buy from Napocor 95 percent of the electricity it distributes. This has gone down to 60 percent since it started buying power from its affiliate independent power producers Quezon Power Philippines and First Gas Power Corp. in 1999.

Quezon Power operates the Mauban coal-fired power plant while First Gas runs the Sta. Rita gas-fired power plant in Batangas.

Meralco's purchases from Napocor is expected to further decline as Reynaldo Quetua, Meralco's vice president for utility economics, earlier told reporters that the company was considering power purchase proposals from at least four other independent power producers.

Quetua, however, said Meralco could not act on the proposals until measures to reform the power industry has been enacted.

He said Meralco was seriously considering the proposals from GN Power, Isabela Coal, Kanan Hydro and Bulacan Biomass.

GN Power has a capacity of 1,350 megawatts; Isabela Coal and Kanan Hydro, 150 mw, and Bulacan Biomass, 35 mw.

Napocor said that despite the drop in its sales, the 2000 figure was slightly better than the 35.05 gwh target.

Napocor said there was a 7.2-percent increase on sales to customers outside Meralco's franchise area. However, this was not enough to offset the lower sales to the distribution giant.

Also, sales to industrial customers that are directly connected to Napocor rose by 13.8 percent despite sluggish demand from power-intensive industries such as cement manufacturing.

Year-on-year energy sales in Mindanao rose by 4.4 percent while that in the Visayas grew by 5 percent.

Shares . . .

(From page B1)

yesterday to leave its policy rates unchanged, traders said.

Investors believed Estrada scored a victory Wednesday in a Supreme Court resolution that to suspend criminal complaints against the deposed leader for next 30 days. The court also put a gag order on people involved in Estrada's case.

"The market is down partly because the Dow fell by about 200 points, the peso is at the 48 level, worse than where we were last week, and corporate earnings are not so good," said Teresa Lee of Tower Securities.

"There is an absence of fresh news for investors to come into the market, that's why we see a continuation of the market's correction phase."

Turnover climbed to P485.7 million from P378.4 million on Wednesday, with decliners in a five-to-one majority. *AP*

Cashing in on people's reading habits

SUCCESS STORY

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

WHEN he came back from his studies in Spain, architecture student Jaime Daez found out there was a lack of reading materials on his field in the country. This prompted him to bring in architecture books from abroad and sell them to friends who wanted them.

He would buy five books of the same title and sell four, so he could keep one for himself for free. Daez did not intend to make a business out of it but he ended up doing direct sales of books to more people who were looking for the latest in design books.

"I would do everything myself. I would go through the yellow pages and call up people whom I felt would be interested in buying books on architecture. I basically used telemarketing to sell the books," Daez said.

A year after he made his first sale, Daez felt there was enough demand for these types of books so he decided to put up a bookstore that will carry designs and architecture reading materials. At 26, he became the proud owner of the first Bibliarch store set up in 1997 in Glorietta Mall, Makati, with the capital provided by friends and family.

Timely business

"I was lucky because it was a good time to put up a shop. The economy was doing good and the construction industry was at its peak so there was a demand for design and architecture books that we offer," Daez said.

Bibliarch still considers design and architecture books its main line although its list has expanded to include cook books, art books and other coffee-table books. Daez said he chose the books for his shop with the professionals and those looking for interior designs in mind.

Two other shops—one in Rockwell and the other in Alabang—were put up later as demand for his products rose.

"I would say that my market is predominantly the working class. I don't get too much of the students here," Daez said.

Daez said he maintained a hands-on approach in managing Bibliarch since it is a relatively small operation with only three bookstores to take care of. The size, however, made him closer to his customers, thus, developing a loyal client base that remained despite the crisis that also saw the peso's depreciation.

"I have developed a loyal clientele through hard work and perseverance. Some have been buying books here since the time we started," he said.

Clients' patronage

He attributed their loyalty to and continued patronage of the Bibliarch stores to the quality of his books. Many of these books are imported exclusively by Bibliarch. They are considered the most extensive as far as coffee-table books are concerned.

He also takes pride on the way the books are displayed. Bibliarch prominently displays the covers of the books and even encourages the people to read before making their purchase. He said this made the clients feel at home at the Bibliarch stores which keep them coming back and buying more.

Daez, however, wanted to reach out to more readers and he got the chance when he tied up with a Singaporean book shop owner who, like him, started the business when he was still in his 20s. The result was the Page One bookstore at the Rockwell Power Plant in Makati.

Page One

"We have some books here that are also available in Bibliarch but the selection at Page One is definitely more extensive, maybe 10 times as much books. We also have a very nice children's book section," Daez said.

Children at Page One are allowed to touch and read the books so that they can choose the books they want to take home. Daez even installed children's tables and chairs for the convenience of his little customers.

Daez said he was looking forward to further improving the ambiance at Page One's shop by putting up a café. He would also like to expand the magazine and Filipiniana sections.

"Filipinos are not known to be a reading public but I hope that Bibliarch and Page One will be of help in encouraging more Filipinos to get into the reading habit," Daez said.

JOHNNY VILLENA

JAIME DAEZ at the Page One bookstore at Rockwell Power Plant

MBC-PCCI feud brewing

THE POLITICAL crisis might have subsided over a month ago but the country's top business organizations remain at odds after taking adverse positions in the People Power movement which booted President Joseph Estrada out of Malacañang.

On one side are the activist business groups led by Makati Business Club which spearheaded the Estrada resign movement, and on the other are the rabid Estrada supporters led by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry which have since changed its tone and pledged its support to the Macapagal administration.

MBC executive director Guillermo Luz said that not a few eyebrows were raised when leaders of PCCI, Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce Inc., Employers Confederation of the Philippines Inc. and Philippine Exporters Confederation Inc. held a special meeting honoring President Macapagal-Arroyo just one month after openly throwing their full support to the former President even in the face of the thickening crowd in Edsa.

"Who were the business groups in Malacañang on Jan. 18 during Estrada's final hours? They were PCCI, FFCCCI, Philexport and Ecop. These guys represent what is wrong about system because they helped prop up a wrong regime," Luz said.

Luz chided the PCCI leadership for demanding economic reforms from President Macapagal. "I don't think the group is in a position to ask for reforms when its leadership does not heed the clamor of the majority of its reforms."

While the majority of PCCI's board and members voted for the immediate resignation of President Estrada last year, the PCCI leadership continued to show its support to the previous administration up to its final hours.

Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

Disclosures

AYALA Corp. will hold its regular annual stockholders' meeting on April 20, 9 a.m., at the Onstage Greenbelt, 2nd level Greenbelt Mall, Ayala Center, Makati.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Omico Corp.** postponed its annual stockholders' meeting set under its by-laws on the last Friday of April to June 29. Also, lawyer Philip King relinquished his post as corporate secretary due to his appointment as president and CEO of **Philippine Journalists Inc.** Lawyer James Noel de Leon was elected to replace him.

* * *

SAN Miguel Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 3, 2 p.m., at the Isla Ballroom of the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City. Also, it refused to comment on reports that it bought **Pure Foods Corp.** for P8.8 billion.

* * *

EQUITABLE PCI Bank said a group of local and foreign investors have expressed their interest to acquire stakes in the bank but confidentiality agreements prelude it from disclosing their identities. However, it has not yet finalized any short list of qualified bidders for a substantial stake in the bank.

* * *

ITOGON-Suyoc Mines Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 4, 4 p.m., at the Valle Verde Country Club, Antipolo Ballroom, Pasig City.

* * *

IN LINE with the change in **Cyber Bay Corp.**'s fiscal year, the board changed the date of its annual stockholders' meeting from November to April of each year on such date as the chairman will fix from time to time.

Compiled by Armin P. Adina, PDI Research

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Thursday, February 22, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.8	40,000
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	110	110	110	110	500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	70	70	69.5	69.5	220,200
China Banking Corp.	680	680	680	680	50
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	57.5	57.5	56	56	17,100
Global Business Bank Inc.	64.5	65.5	64.5	65.5	3,200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	230	232	229	229	38,190
Prudential Bank	470	500	470	500	210
Philippine National Bank	36	36	35.5	36	28,500
Security Bank Corp.	24.5	24.5	24.25	24.25	78,600
Union Bank of the Phil.	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	4,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.62	1.62	1.58	1.58	291,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	20,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1120	1120	1100	1105	3,440
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	200,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	950	950	900	905	26,650
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	49	49.5	48.5	48.5	15,400
Diversified Fin. Network	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	3,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.66	0.67	5,730,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	710	710	710	710	20
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	3,000,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	130,000
Piltel	0.76	0.8	0.76	0.8	140,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	20,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	820	830	815	820	51,550
Ivantage Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.04	1.06	1,127,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.07	0.0725	203,600,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	52	54	52	53.5	21,100
Manila Electric Co. B	61.5	62.5	61.5	61.5	1,280,600
Petron Corp.	1.94	1.98	1.92	1.94	1,183,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.97	0.97	0.93	0.93	30,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.08	1.1	1.06	1.1	308,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.32	1.32	1.3	1.32	665,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	200,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	110,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	7,272,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11.75	11.75	11.5	11.5	2,900
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	37.5	37.5	37	37	204,400
Pancake House Inc.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	50,000
Pure Foods Corp. A	100	100	100	100	1,000
RFM Corp.	1.28	1.28	1.26	1.26	350,000
San Miguel Corp. A	50	50.5	49.5	50.5	55,700
San Miguel Corp. B	61	61	59	60	211,200
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	10,000
Ayala Corp.	8.1	8.1	7.8	7.9	3,534,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.58	1.58	1.56	1.56	471,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12	12	12	12	500
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	1.02	1.02	1	1.02	340,000
APC Group Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.24	0.24	1,600,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.008	0.007	0.008	62,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.7	3.05	2.7	3	262,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	3.15	3.15	3.1	3.1	8,217,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	830,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	290,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	310,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.5	0.54	0.5	0.54	220,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	30,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.48	1.48	1.42	1.46	1,320,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	169,200
Global Equities Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.36	0.36	590,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	160,000
House of Investments Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	20,000
Ionics Inc.	14	14	13.25	13.25	45,700
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	1,626,000
Macroasia Corp.	2	2	1.98	1.98	85,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.93	0.94	0.93	0.94	920,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	310,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.63	0.64	0.62	0.63	4,850,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.74	0.74	2,600,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	2,320,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.3	0.31	0.29	0.3	1,720,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	50,000
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	7,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	20,000
Metro Alliance Holdings-B	1	1	1	1	20,000
Macondray Plastics Inc.	7	7	7	7	8,000
Music Corp.	3.2	3.25	3.15	3.15	52,000
Philtread Tire & Rubber B	3.5	4.4	3.5	4.4	4,000
Reynolds Philippine Corp.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	100,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	12.75	13.25	12.5	12.75	639,400
Steniel Manufacturing	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	20,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.62	0.63	0.62	0.63	1,250,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.69	0.69	0.65	0.65	7,470,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	170,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	49	49	49	49	45,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.- Pref.	505	505	505	505	200
Equitable PCI Bank-War	4.15	4.15	4	4	115,000
Jollibee Warrants	11.5	11.5	11.25	11.25	114,800
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	112,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	900
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	1,000
Waterfront Phils-Warrant	0.0675	0.0675	0.065	0.065	400,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.6	13,540,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	740,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.44	0.44	640,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.42	0.43	0.42	0.43	6,780,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.85	2.9	2.85	2.9	6,097,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	200,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.18	2.18	2.18	2.18	8,000
SM Development Corp.	0.99	0.99	0.95	0.96	130,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7	7.1	7	7.1	4,062,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.12	0.12	0.115	0.12	170,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	3,000,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	87,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	100,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	140,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	53,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	67,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0046	0.0046	0.0044	0.0044	345,000,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	170,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	300,000
Interport Res.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	2,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	4,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	59,000,000
Pacifica	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	6,300,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.11	0.115	0.11	0.11	1,530,000

Currencies

Feb. 22, 2001 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.099505	1.000000	47.9250
Japan	Yen	0.009433	0.008579	0.4111
United Kingdom	Pound	1.586586	1.443000	69.1558
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.140965	0.128208	6.1444
Switzerland	Franc	0.651830	0.592839	28.4118
Canada	Dollar	0.715916	0.651126	31.2052
Singapore	Dollar	0.630450	0.573394	27.4799
Australia	Dollar	0.577805	0.525514	25.1853
Bahrain	Dinar	2.916615	2.652661	127.1288
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.293185	0.266652	12.7793
Brunei	Dollar	0.629728	0.572738	27.4485
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000114	0,000104	0.0050
Thailand	Baht	0.025629	0.023310	1.1171
UAE	Dirham	0.299389	0.272294	13.0497
Korea	Won	0.000888	0.000808	0.0387
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.909500	43.5878
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.46502	22.2861
France	Franc	0.152450	0.138652	6.6449
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.412713	19.7793
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.066096	3.1677
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022546	1.0805
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000470	0.0225
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.152967	7.3309
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004537	0.2174
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005466	0.2620
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.022546	1.0805
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.154827	55.3451

Serapio's partner

COCKTALES

By Victor C. Agustin

ERAP lawyer Edward Serapio may now be out of power but his law partner and fellow Erap appointee seems to be thriving under the new bosses in Malacañang.

Not only has Renato Bello been retained in the board of sequestered Channel 13, the lawyer was even promoted chair after fellow Erap appointee Boots Anson-Roa resigned the position out of *delicadeza*.

Bello is the third name in the De Borja Medialdea Bello Serapio & Gerodias law firm, the same law firm that the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation used as office address in its incorporation papers.

And guess who else have been retained in the Channel 13 board?

Announcer Tina Loy and Mel Robles, the spokesman of Erap spiritual adviser Bro. Mike Velarde of El Shaddai.

Bello, Loy and Robles represent the El Shaddai bloc in the sequestered TV station, with Bello's law firm being one of the retained firms of El Shaddai.

A rather puzzling arrangement, since Bro. Mike himself has expressed interest in bidding for the same TV station.

That makes the three—Bello, Loy and Robles — the El Shaddai advance party in their target TV station.

What is that favorite quote again of Erap teacher Emil Jurado about letting Dracula loose in a blood bank?

Not Vera funny

SPEAKING of Channel 13, the Presidential Commission on Good Government sold a Channel 13 FM radio station, dzMZ, on Jan. 22, only two days after Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was sworn in as president.

PCCG Commissioner Jorge Sarmiento, who oversaw the bidding, swears that the sale had been aboveboard since there had been two bidders and that the winning bid, P216 million, was way over the P160-million floor price.

What escaped Sarmiento's eyes, assuming that he has 20/20 legal vision, is the fact that the two bidders Blockbuster Radio and Advance Media share the same address, the Campos Rueda building on Urban Avenue in Makati.

Blockbuster, the winning bidder, is controlled by the Louie Vera family, descendants of the late Marcos BIR Commissioner Ismael Vera.

Strangely, despite having different incorporators, Blockbuster and the five other radio stations (dwTM, dwCT, dwKX, dwRT and dwLL), share the same executive, Bernie Buenasueda, to oversee their operations.

The five stations even quote a group advertising rate card, offering deep discounts to an advertiser placing spots for the intertwined networks.

The question is, whatever happened to the government prohibition limiting ownership by an entity to one FM station and one AM station?

The even bigger question, why are the industry watchdog, the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas, and the National Telecommunications Commission silent about the whole charade?

In banks we trust

THE ZOBELS, the Tys and the Gos of the banking world may have to hire their respective genealogists and comb archives in Basque and in Fujian for their long-lost relatives.

Why? Because the Bangko Sentral, wisening up to improper Dosri dealings, now requires bank directors to list all their relatives up to the fourth degree of affinity and consanguinity.

The new Bangko Sentral circular, however, is silent about listing acknowledged mistresses, as well as offsprings from such unions.

Short takes

- NOEL Cariño, president of Fil-Estate Realty Corp., is hoping to do a Manny Villar by seeking the congressional seat of Pasig.

Cariño is running under the GMA party.

If he wins, buy Fil-Estate, the listed stock.

- ABS-CBN patriarch Gabby Lopez has ventured into the beauty parlor business in partnership with the breakaway beauticians from the wildly successful BCBG salon in Ayala's 6750.

The new parlor is set to be launched next week in Rockwell.

Heard through the grapevine

THE GRADUATE school of a leading university in the University Belt area is being roiled by a sex-for-grades scandal.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Japan manufacturer ties up with RP firm

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE HKT group, a leading Japanese maker of automotive parts, has tied up with the Yazaki-Torres group to build components for heavy trucks and buses in the Philippines.

HKT group director Hisashi Endo said the partners would invest an initial P70 million into their factory at the Carmelray Industrial Park, which will be the Japanese firm's first step in producing auto parts outside Japan.

The 60-40 partnership between HKT and Yazaki-Torres, called HKT Philippines Inc., will produce fuel pumps, actuators and cut valves for export initially to Japan and eventually to the US and Europe.

The venture would produce original equipment manufacturer (OEM) parts for Nissan, Hino, Mitsubishi and Isuzu.

Unique Distribution Co. Inc. president Anthony D. Torres said the HKT group chose the Philippines because of the Filipinos' exceptional labor skills compared to other Asean countries. HKT also has an existing plant in Taiwan.

Torres said the relocation of Japanese auto parts makers to other countries with lower business costs was part of the automotive industry's desire to reduce costs of parts by 20 percent.

Unique Distribution is the trading arm of the Yazaki-Torres group, the country's leading exporter of auto wiring harness. The partnership should allow the company to further expand its product portfolio and market share.

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M4
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ADB study says RP stocks vulnerable to manipulation

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

STOCK prices in the Philippines are vulnerable to price manipulation due to the slow development of its capital markets, according to a regional study on corporate governance by the Asian Development Bank.

The study, titled "Corporate Governance and Finance in East Asia," authored by the ADB economics and development center, urged the Philippines and four other countries affected by the 1997 financial crisis to prioritize reforms on disclosures, insider trading, public listing and delisting rules as well as trading systems.

The four other countries covered by the study were Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia and Thailand.

In the case of the Philippines, the study noted: "The market for debt and equity instruments are small and have limited depth and liquidity. As a consequence, stocks are probably not priced efficiently and prices are vulnerable to manipulation."

Starting in late 1999, the local stock market was rocked by a price manipulation scandal involving BW Resources Corp. and businessman Dante Tan, a close friend of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

The study noted that local companies heavily depended on negotiated bank loans for source of financing while there was limited access to other types of financing such as rights issues, short- and long-term commercial papers (CPs) and bonds.

"Only a few large companies offer CPs due to their high transaction and regulatory costs. Companies issuing CPs are usually affiliated with the banks underwriting the issues," the study noted.

"Bond issues are even more limited, with only companies that are strongly capitalized and with predictable cash flows being in the position to issue bonds."

The study also stressed that the corporate sector in the country was being hounded by the problem of volatile interest rates and the absence of a secondary market for bonds.

However, the study said the Philippine corporate sector was least affected by the crisis of 1997 partly due to limited exposure to short-term foreign debt. In contrast to the other affected countries that had already large and increasing access to international capital markets by the late 1980s, it said the Philippine debt problem at that time as well as the recession in early 1990s made the country a latecomer in getting capital inflows.

Across the five countries, however, the study noted that the finances of the corporate sectors were commonly characterized by heavy reliance on debt financing, specially bank loans due to the following factors:

- The insignificance of internal finance may partly be explained by the rapid growth of the corporate sector in these countries. In some countries like South Korea, it may also be explained by the poor financial performance of the sector.
- The dominance of bank loans can be explained by the fact that firms with a dominant family shareholder rely on financial leverage in order to maintain high family ownership and control.
- The insignificant role of corporate bonds in corporate financing can be explained by regulatory restrictions, the ineffectiveness of legal procedures in cases of insolvency, and the lack of market infrastructure, such as credit rating agencies.
- The remarkable increase in short-term foreign debt may have been caused by the inconsistent mix of macroeconomic policies by the East Asian economies during the 1990s.

As such, the study urged the governments of these countries to accelerate the development of the equity markets.

"Through their Securities and Exchange Commissions and stock exchanges, the governments should consider formulating policies to increase the supply of quality securities from top-tier local companies in the stock markets," it said.

Unless effective policies are instituted, the study warned that many publicly listed companies would remain under the control of a few large shareholders and other large companies would remain privately owned.

"The lack of quality equities that are traded in sufficient volumes and low liquidity deter institutional and individual investors. As a result, share prices become vulnerable to manipulation or insider trading by large shareholders, rather than being responsive to corporate performance."

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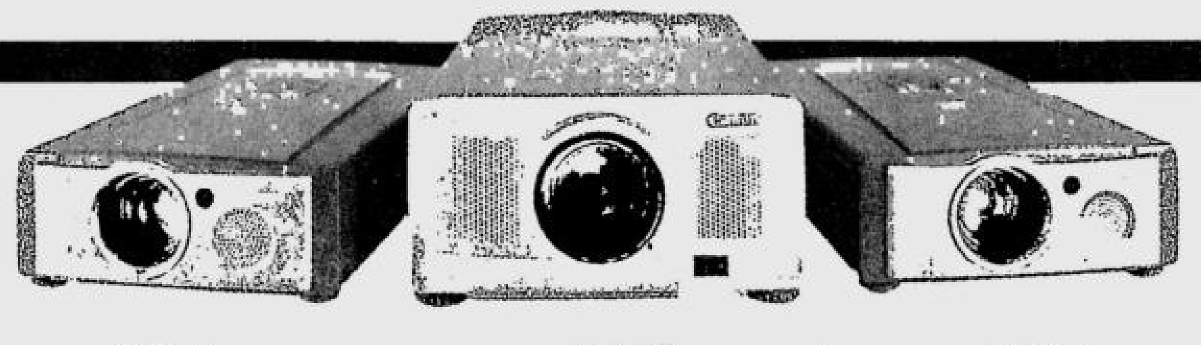
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INVITATION TO BID

Interested suppliers/dealers are invited to pre-qualify and bid for the supply and delivery of various office supplies and materials for use in connection with the conduct of the 2001 Bar Examinations.

Bids of pre-qualified bidders will be received by the Secretariat, Committee on Bids, Supreme Court of the Philippines, Taft Avenue, Manila at 2:00 p.m. on **March 21, 2001**. At said time and date, sealed quotations submitted will be opened publicly by the Committee on Bids in the presence of the COA Auditor and participating bidders and/or representatives at the Centennial Bldg. Second Floor, Supreme Court.

Interested suppliers/dealers who have not previously been pre-qualified during the year 2001 may obtain the necessary pre-qualification requirements from the Secretariat, Committee on Bids, Office of the Administrative Services, Supreme Court, which should be submitted not later than 10:00 a.m. on **March 7, 2001**. Only bids of pre-qualified bidders will be entertained at the time of bidding.

Proposal forms, Terms and Conditions and list of office supplies subject of this particular bidding will be furnished to pre-qualified bidders.

The Committee on Bids reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects or informalities therein, or accept any bid/s or offer/s which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the government.

February 21, 2001.

(Sgd.) **JOSE P. PEREZ**
Chairman
Committee on Bids

(PDI – Feb. 23, 2001)

Equitable PCI BANK

INVITATION TO BID

The **ACQUIRED ASSETS DIVISION** of Equitable PCIBank is inviting offers to purchase by the way of sealed bids, in cash and on "as-is-where-is" basis, the following real estate properties:

TCT NO./AREA (In sqms.)/DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	PRICE
I. METRO MANILA		
1) 15571-72/610 m2/res./comm'l. w/impvt.	No. 52 San Rafael St., Bo. Jolo, Mandaluyong City	P27,824,150
2) 206056/208 m2/res. w/ impvts.	Corner Alfonso & Fermina Sts., Bgy. Poblacion, Makati City	21,904,000
3) 361667-68/3,870 m2/comm'l./res. w/ impvts.	Along Marcos Highway, Bgy. Mayamot, Antipolo City	24,959,886
4) 407166/540 m2/res. w/ impvts.	No. 17 Sunrise Drive, Beverly Hills Subd., Bgy. Beverly Hills, Antipolo City	2,347,000
5) PT-113705-707/374 m2/res. w/ impvts.	Corner of Red Palm & Green Palm Sts., SPS Subd., Bgy. Malinao, Pasig City	3,400,000
II. PROVINCIAL		
1) T-484400-R-401-R/752 m2/res.	L12 Villa Victoria Subd., Bo. San Juan & Dolores, San Fernando, Pampanga	3,128,800
2) T-232646-48/5,733 m2/res.	Sta. Clara Subdivision, Banago, Bacolod City	18,236,400
3) T-327882-909/8,796 m2/res. vacant lots	Guadalupe Subd., Lanang, Davao City	16,563,200

Complete description/specification of the above properties, rules & regulations on the bidding procedures and the prescribed bid forms are available from the following officers:

All Properties MS. LITA O. VALENCIA/VP/LUCHIE M. CASTILLO/AO/MAR M. RIPA/AO/GISELLE P. ESPIRITU/AO/KAREN U. RESARI/AO/TON-TON P. MALABUYO/AO-Tel. Nos. 817-8909/817-2822/840-7638/840-7644/894-1910/840-7920

Bidding will be held on **March 13, 2001** at 10:00 A.M., 11/F SAM Con. Rm., Equitable PCIBank Tower 1, Makati Ave., Makati City for all items. Bidders' deposit equivalent to 10% of the minimum bid price in the form of cash or Manager's/Cashier's check together with the duly accomplished bid form must be enclosed in a sealed envelope. All sealed bids will be opened on scheduled bidding date as stated above. All winning bids are subject to approval by the Bank's approving authority.

(PDI--Feb. 23 & 24, 2001)

ANNOUNCEMENT

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INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Leyte Institute of Technology is inviting prospective bidders to pre-qualify and to bid for the supply of **ONE (1) UNIT GENERATING SET 250 KVA PERKINS BRAND.**

Pre-qualification form and other requirement may be secured from the Supply Office, Leyte Institute of Technology, Tacloban City.

SCHEDULE OF BIDDING

1. Pre-Bid Conference	March 6, 2001
2. Deadline of Submission of Pre-qualification requirement	March 16, 2001
3. Opening of Bids	March 28, 2001

Financial proposal shall be accompanied by a bidder's bond either in the form of GSIS Bond, Cashier/Manager's Check and or Cash Bond of at least 5% of the total bid price.

The Leyte Institute of Technology reserves the right to reject any or all bids waive and defect or informality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bid and to accept the bid most advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) **GREGORIO T. DE LA ROSA**
President

(PDI - Feb 19, 21 & 23, 2001)

INQUIRER
TRiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Bird of peace

Q. How did the dove become a symbol of innocence and peace?

A. For a number of reasons, mostly religious. In Greek myth, the dove with an olive branch is the emblem of the Athena, goddess of wisdom and peace, as the renewal of life. The dove bearing the freshly plucked leaf to Noah in the Ark after the Flood had receded is deliverance, the messenger of God's forgiveness. It is also the Christian symbol of the Holy Spirit. In various folklore, it is believed that the Devil and witches can transform themselves into any bird or animal shape apart from the dove or the lamb. In Chinese symbolism the dove is longevity, orderliness.

Ooops! Despite what many think, the Bible makes no mention of a snake in the Garden of Eden. According to Genesis (3:2-14), it was a 'serpent' that tempted Eve and convinced her to eat the 'fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.' In olden times, a serpent did not usually refer to a snake, but to any creeping thing that was especially noxious or venomous. The term also extended to imaginary creatures. But in any case, the word *snake* is not used to refer to the creature which tempted Eve.

What's the Difference? Revolution / Rebellion / Revolt. A *revolution* succeeds. A *rebellion* fails. A *revolt* may or may not succeed. A *revolution* is associated with plots to "overthrow" the government, and that literally is what a *revolution* does. The essential Latin etymological parts are *re-* ('over') and *volvo* ('turn'), so the government is "overturned" or "overthrown." A *rebellion* is an unsuccessful attempt at *revolution*. In Latin, *rebellio* meant "a renewal of war," based on *re-* ("anew") and *bellum* ("war"). The implication is that rebels want to try again. A *revolt* stresses a casting off of allegiance or a refusal to submit to established authority.

WORD WATCH

Lakas : from the Malay *lekas*, 'speed.'

PDI – February 23, 2001

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People, Events & Products
REZ GOPEZ-SINDAC, Editor

Northwest, Cebu Pacific Airlines sign frequent flyer program agreement

NORTHWEST Airlines and Cebu Pacific Airlines have formed a frequent flyer program agreement that will allow Northwest WorldPerks members to earn and redeem travel award on Cebu Pacific's flights in the Philippines.

WorldPerks members will earn a minimum of 250 miles or the actual miles flown on Cebu Pacific flights between Manila and 10 destinations in the Philippines. Cebu Pacific is the Philippines' second largest carrier and is known for its on-time and customer-friendly service. Northwest offers 18 weekly flights between the United States and Manila, the most service offered by any carrier in the US – Philippines market. Cebu Pacific offers convenient service between Manila and a variety of leisure destinations including Cebu, Davao, Dumaguete, Iloilo, Kalibo, Zamboanga, Cagayan de Oro, Tacloban, Roxas and Bacolod.

"Cebu Pacific is a valuable addition to our growing list of partners airlines," said Laurie Lofgren, Northwest general manager for the Philippines, Guam and Micronesia. "This agreement will benefit our WorldPerks members as they have now more holiday destinations from which to choose. Cebu Pacific flies to the Philippines' top resort islands which feature some of the best beaches and vacation values in the world."

"Cebu Pacific is pleased to announced this partnership with Northwest which is the leading international carrier serving the Philippines," said Manolo San Juan, Cebu Pacific's vice president, marketing. "We look forward to additional ways to improve service for our mutual customers."

PDI-GMA PARTNERSHIP

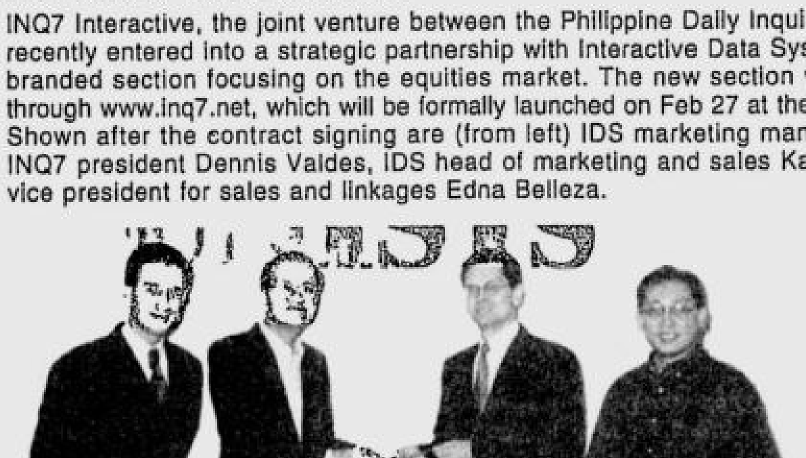
INQ7 Interactive, the joint venture between the Philippine Daily Inquirer and GMA Network, recently entered into a strategic partnership with Interactive Data Systems to develop a co-branded section focusing on the equities market. The new section will soon be accessed through www.inq7.net, which will be formally launched on Feb 27 at the GMA Network Center. Shown after the contract signing are (from left) IDS marketing manager Augustus Paiso, INQ7 president Dennis Valdes, IDS head of marketing and sales Karlo Samson and INQ7 vice president for sales and linkages Edna Belleza.

UP Mass Comm holds election, pays tribute to RP's media giants

JOY Lumawig-Buensalido, president of the UP College of Mass Communication Alumni Association announces the holding of the general assembly of all UPCMCAA members and holding of elections for the new board of directors on Feb. 27, 2001, 5 p.m. at the UP Chancellor's House, UP Campus, along President Garcia Rd., Diliman, Quezon City.

CMCAA is a non-profit, non-stock organization dedicated to the service of the alumni, the professionalization of the country's mass media industry and the development of Philippine communications in partnership with the UP College of Mass Communication.

To this end, the UPCMC Alumni Association will also be honoring outstanding contributions of former College faculty namely, Dean Gloria D. Feliciano, Prof. Koko Trinidad and Dean Armando Malay. For details, call Gayla Carreon at 434-3378 or JM Teruel at 812-3325.



UNISYS PHILIPPINES DONATES TO 'TABANG MINDANAW'

'Tabang Mindanaw' was the recent recipient of $5,000 from e-business solutions leader Unisys Philippines. In lieu of traditional corporate giveaways to colleagues and valued clients, Unisys gave the donation on their behalf to Tabang Mindanaw, a private multisectoral organizational dedicated to helping families affected by the war in the South. Unisys Philippines president and general manager Gabriel Leiva (third from left) turns over the check to former ambassador Howard Dee, co-chair of Tabang Mindanaw (second from left). With them are (from left) Unisys Philippines finance director Juan Pablo Garduño and Tabang Mindanaw co-coordinator Ben Abadiano.

MARITIME EXPERTISE

The British Embassy recently launched it's theme for the year 2001, "Maritime Britain" which highlights the expertise of the United Kingdom in Maritime activities – from naval capabilities and industrial expertise to environmental protection initiatives. Shown are British Ambassador Alan Collins and Embassy defense attaché Chris Peach during the launching ceremony at the Westin Philippine Plaza.

Clips

Colgate, PDA celebrate dental week

COLGATE, the world leader in oral care and the Philippine Dental Association recently celebrated the 51st National Dental Health Week. Miguel A. Ramirez, Colgate's marketing director said "Colgate is honored to be part of this worthwhile event and remains supportive to a lifetime of healthy smiles for generations of Filipino children." This year's theme was "Munting Ngiti Tungo sa Maningning Na Kinabukasan" which was anchored on the declaration of Filipino children's right to good oral health.

UP-PGH pediatrics postgraduate course

THE PEDIATRICS Department of the University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital will conduct its 34th General Postgraduate Course on March 7 to 9 at the Intramuros Function Room of the Manila Midtown Hotel, Pedro Gil St., Malate, Manila. For inquiries, contact the UP-PGH Pediatrics Department Care of Dr. Ces Alinea or Merle Ramirez at 521-8450 local 2101 or 524-0892.

PLAI national confab

THE PHILIPPINE Librarians Association, Inc. (PLAI) board of trustees invites librarians to the PLAI National Conference on April 18-20 at Venus Park Hotel, Baguio City. The theme is "PLAI 2001 and beyond: Strengthening Partnership and Linkages." To register or for more information, contact the following: Rebecca M. Jocson, PLM – 527-9071 local 44; Marlo C. Chavez, SBC – 735-6011; Elnora L. Conti, TJCC – 526-8295; Monalisa P. Lequiab, PUP – 716-0106; Shirley Nava, DOJ – 524-9740.

SMA alumni homecoming

ALL graduates of St. Mary's Academy, Yakal, Trozo, Manila are requested to attend their alumni homecoming on March 4, 2001 at the St. Mary's Academy Compound. For details, call Sr. Alice at 253-2243 or Marissa at 727-8557.

Coke, P&G to form juice, snack venture

CHICAGO—The Coca-Cola Co. and consumer products maker Procter & Gamble Co. said Wednesday they would combine their juice and snack products in a venture that would pit the new company squarely against PepsiCo Inc.'s Frito-Lay and Tropicana.

The venture, to be equally owned, hopes to harness Coke's giant distribution system to provide P&G's lagging Pringles chips with more sales outlets and give Coke access to P&G's well-regarded research and development expertise.

The deal got an immediate thumbs down from investors, who drove down Coke's share price by more than 6 percent. They saw it as a marriage based on weakness and, in particular, questioned the wisdom of joining Coke's growing juice business with P&G's ailing Sunny Delight drink brand and Pringles.

"Why in the world would anybody get into the salty snack business to go against Frito-Lay?" said Emanuel Goldman, a beverage industry analyst at ING Barings.

Frito-Lay, maker of Doritos, Ruffles, Fritos, Tostitos and Lay's brand chips, controls more than half of the US snack chip market. Its revenues are expected to grow 5 percent to 7 percent in North America this year.

The Coke-P&G venture would unite Pringles and Sunny Delight with Coke's Minute Maid juices, Hi-C, Five-Alive and Fruitopia drinks. Coke, with its world leading Coca-Cola brand, markets more than 230 other products in 200 countries. P&G sells 300 brands to nearly 5 billion consumers in 140 countries.

The yet to be named venture was expected to have annual sales of more than $4 billion. Don Short, a 24-year Coca-Cola veteran with years of international experience, was named chief executive of the new company. His appointment could signal that the companies were hoping to push the brands in overseas markets, especially since P&G's food and beverage brands did more of their business outside the United States than domestically.

Coca-Cola shares fell $3.55 to $54.92, while P&G's stock gained $1.09 to $76.80 in Wednesday trade on the New York Stock Exchange. PepsiCo shares fell $1.25 to $47.25.

The new company will focus efforts on developing and marketing new juices, juice-based beverages and snacks worldwide and will also look to grow through acquisitions, officials say.

According to Coke chief financial officer Gary Fayard, P&G has more patents in the food and beverage arena then the top three food companies combined, which would give the new company "tremendous innovative capabilities." *Reuters*

US RECESSION WATCH

New data fan inflation fears

WASHINGTON—Surging energy costs pushed up US consumer prices last month, the government said Wednesday in a report that sent stock prices lower as investors feared higher inflation would force the Federal Reserve to step gingerly at its next interest rate meeting.

But analysts said the price data were likely an aberration and said other reports showing a rapidly weakening economy would lead the Fed to aggressively cut rates on March 20.

The consumer price index, the main gauge of US inflation, rose 0.6 percent last month, the largest gain since March, the Labor Department said. In December, it increased 0.2 percent.

Excluding the volatile food and energy sectors, higher housing and tobacco prices contributed to a 0.3-percent gain in the core rate, which rose 0.1 percent in December.

A separate government report released Wednesday showed the US trade deficit declined for the third straight month in December, although for 2000 as a whole it hit a record level.

The consumer price figures were above analyst expectations and came less than a week after a report showed producer prices soared 1.1 percent last month.

Fears the threat of inflation would force the Fed, which cut interest rates in January a full percentage point in two bold half-point moves, to withhold its heavy interest rate ammunition in March pushed US stock prices down Wednesday.

The tech-laden Nasdaq index fell 2.1 percent to its lowest level in nearly two years while the Dow Jones industrial average declined 1.9 percent, finishing the day at its lowest level in nearly six weeks.

But analysts said January's prices were boosted by isolated factors that would disappear quickly. And, with other data painting a gloomy picture of the once-booming US economy, the Fed was still likely to cut interest rates by a sweeping half-percentage-point next month.

"You can't freak out over one month's numbers," Schwab Washington Research Group managing director Greg Valliere said, adding that he still believed the Fed would cut rates half a percentage point on March 20.

"A week ago I would have said that it is a certain bet, but now I'd say it's a good bet," he said.

Canada trade surplus hit record

OTTAWA—Canada's trade surplus broke records in December and in the whole of 2000 as exports moved to the United States at a breakneck pace. Analysts said the numbers were good news for a nervous economy.

Statistics Canada said Wednesday the 2000 trade surplus was C$54.5 billion ($35 billion), eclipsing the 1999 surplus of C$33.8 billion. Full-year exports to the United States rose at twice the pace of imports.

The December trade surplus hit a record C$5.85 billion, up from C$4.41 billion in November and C$485 million above October's previous record.

"No doubt about it, these are spectacular numbers," said Doug Porter, a senior economist at BMO Nesbitt Burns Inc.

"The lesson here is to show there's more than one cylinder in the Canadian economic engine. It's very encouraging."

Analysts said the data would lend further credibility to Bank of Canada statements that the economy was in good shape to weather the slowdown in the United States, Canada's largest trading partner.

Bank of Canada Governor David Dodge said Tuesday the economy would grow a respectable 3 percent in 2001 compared to 5 percent in 2000, although the US slowdown carried with it some economic risks.

The trade surplus, far above analysts' expectations, sent the Canadian dollar climbing to C$1.5405 (64.91 US cents) from C$1.5350 (65.14 US cents).

The currency later retreated a little as investors concluded that stronger-than-expected US inflation figures, released at the same time as the Canadian data, would lessen the need for steep cuts in US interest rates.

"Domestic demand in Canada remains more solid than in the United States," said Stephen Poloz, chief economist at the Export Development Corp. *Reuters*

S'pore GDP up 9.9%; no shift in bias

SINGAPORE—Singapore's economy grew a robust 9.9 percent in 2000, slightly below an official forecast of 10.1 percent, with the outlook broadly positive for this year despite slowing growth, the government said yesterday.

After the data came out, the Monetary Authority of Singapore defied expectations of a shift in its monetary policy by sticking to its tightening bias to cap inflationary pressures. *Reuters*

Turkey lifts lira controls

ISTANBUL, Turkey—Turkey responded early Thursday to a mounting financial crisis by dropping its exchange-rate controls, effectively allowing a devaluation of the lira.

The government hoped the move would bring skyrocketing interest rates under control, but analysts were predicting a sharp fall in the value of the Turkish lira.

Overnight lending rates reached an annualized 7,500 percent Wednesday and the stock market saw its steepest fall ever Wednesday, losing 18 percent. The market turbulence was fueled by fears of a major political crisis following a clash between the country's top leaders.

By dropping the exchange-rate controls, Turkey is abandoning a key element of an economic stabilization program backed by $11 billion in loans from the International Monetary Fund. The government said it remained committed to the program.

Economist Deniz Gokce said the move would lead to a devaluation of the lira, and push inflation back up in the short term from its current 14-year low. Roughly 688,000 Turkish lira equal $1. *AP*

Motorola trims jobs to cut cost

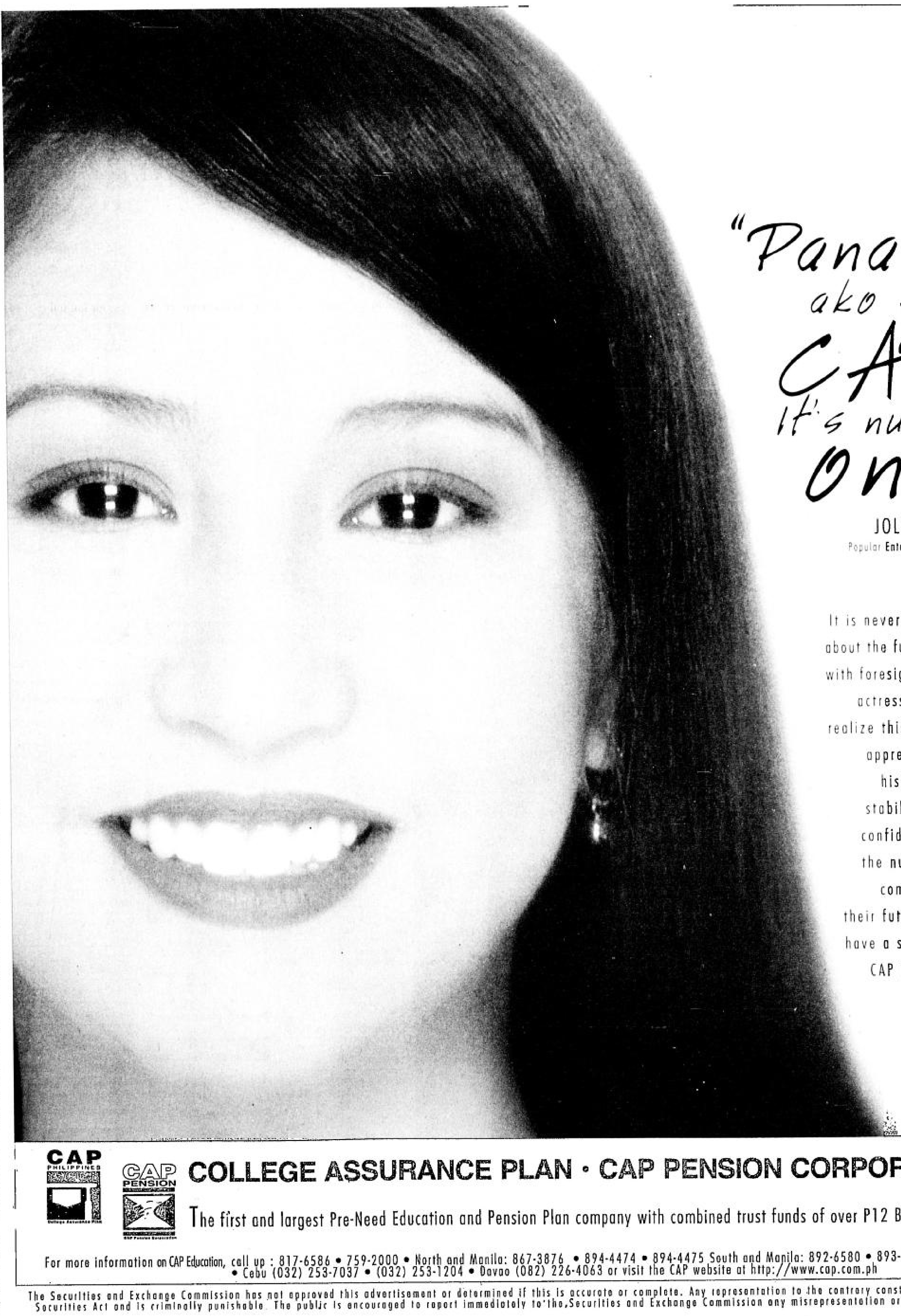
CHICAGO—Motorola Inc., the world's second-largest mobile phone maker, said Wednesday it cut nearly 300 jobs in its handset unit as part of a previously announced plan to reduce costs to offset slowing demand.

The company said the job cuts were part of the handset unit's plan to reduce 15 percent of its non-manufacturing costs in addition to cutting 20 percent of its manufacturing costs.

The cost-cutting comes as competition intensifies in its handset business from Nokia Corp., the world's largest mobile phone maker and Swedish rival Ericsson AB, the world's third largest mobile phone maker.

The move also followed an announcement earlier this month that Motorola was cutting up to 4,000 jobs, or 12 percent of its work force, in its semiconductor unit.

Schaumburg, Illinois-based Motorola had said in January that it was closing its Harvard, Illinois, mobile phone manufacturing plant and cutting 2,500 jobs. *Reuters*



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SAN JUAN

San Juan P. Guevarra 300 P10M • Tel. # 723-2391

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MANDALUYONG

Mandaluyong LA360 FA400 2Sty 4B 5TB 3CG 534-7949

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Nr Ateneo SD 197FA 160LA 3BR 1MR Terms 645-3731

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Cubao P. Tuazon LA1000m² 4BR 3TB 5CG • 928-2497

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Mayon St SMH QC A-960m² 534-6610 • 818-8569 Jojo

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HOUSE & LOT

QUEZON CITY

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Proj 7 Anahaw nr SM 3M 2sty 3BR 2CG 413-4411

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H&L For Sale Beverly Hills Antipolo City • 655-4556

Montevista Heights Taytay Rizal LA140sqm 655-4556

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CanyonWoods Bingas 7.5M ownerlvngSF0917-8143792

•LAGUNA BEL-AIR 3• LA120m² up 2-3BR w/prkg Joann 912-5775

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QUEZON CITY

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Loyola Grand Villas 209m² P14T/m² • 657-8185

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Near BALARA½HA Expan. Nice Area • 645-3731

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Nr Mindanao Ave. 335m² 3720888;3720825;3720869

Nr New York 400m² 20T Neg. No Flood 645-3731

Proj. 2 203m² V/Lot 3.5M 928-3267 • 920-2001

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Sta. Mesa Hts. Lot 240m² near Mayon Suki 4134411

Tchors Vill QC LA290m² P14T/m² • 928-2497

TIERRA PURA Q.C. 300m² P8T/m² • 928-3267

RIZAL

Nice! Baras Farm 1.5H 635-0462

NR STA LUCIA 4 5T SQ 242-1521

Cainta 100meter frntg. Ort. Ave. P2500/m² 656-2410

Our Lady of Lourdes 96m² 2500/m² • 645-3731

Taytay 1H Along H-way Nice 3.3T/m² 645-3731

Taytay Nr. Comml Ctr Res Lots 58-112m² 2T/m² 6558371

Valley View Overlooking 120 & 240 • 658-2410

Village East Binangonan 203sqm corner T531-3742

SAN JUAN

N. Domingo 300m² no flood 20T/m² • 645-3731

Near N. DOMINGO 400m² P14T/m² Neg. • 645-3731

San Juan Lit Baguio 450m² Good 4 Wrhse • 723-2391

SJuan Lit Baguio 650m² P25T/m² • 723-2391

PROVINCIAL

1030m² Bacaue, Bulacan Piggery • 928-1469

1,600m² Overlooking Tagaytay • Tel.# 928-1469

Baguio Lot 236 & 278sqm Good Location • 531-3742

Baguio Subdivision Lot w/Pine Trees • T531-3742

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Grand Victoria, Nueva Ecija 4 Lots • Tel.# 531-3742

LAGUNA LOTS 4.2HA and 1.5 HA • Tel.# 928-2497

Malolos Bulacan nr. Sta. Rita Exit 3.8Hec 9283267

Sherwood Cavite 345m² Block 11 Lot 3 • 723-2391

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Villa Segovia E Kingdom 296sqm 2Lots • 531-3742

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OTHER AREAS

7049m² Malinta Valenzuela Tel.# 928-1469

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LOT

OTHER AREAS

ANTIPOLO BSIDE ASSUMP CONVENT 3T/SQ 3022595

Ibuna nr P.Guevarra 231m² 20T/m² w/Fence 928-3267

Sta. Mesa Heoghts 480m² 210m² 18-20T/m² 928-3267

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nr GREENBELT 2br 130m² 12M 4121825 09177914366

•88 Corp. Ctr BNew 178m² Sale or Rent 412-1825

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nr GREENBELT 3br 250m² 25M 4121825 09177914366

SKYLAND 9M NEG FRNT OF MKTI MED 3025395/8204506

Westgate Salcedo 1B 1CG FF FA60m² P4.5M 5347949

MANILA

Sta. Ana TH 3BR 3TB 2ps P5.9 & 6.8M • 911-7940

MANDALUYONG

Condo New Unit 1-2BR's Mandaluyong • 533-5525

Various Mandaluyong Townhouses 534-6610 Jojo

Various Wack-Wack Condo Lee Gardens 5346610 Jojo

Wack² Tower 28 3TB Mds Rm 1ps P5.5M • 911-7940

MARIKINA

Nr. Ateneo TH Cinco Mkna Bnew 4BR FA350 681-9868

PARANAQUE

Better Living 2BR/ TB 850T neg Carport 09176011115

PASIG

11M Beautiful HSE South Bay Paranaque 141-259275

6.5M Townhse Kawilihan Vill Pasig 141-259275

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SACRIFICE SALE 5.2M 3BR Phoenix Hts Condo4121825

Nr C5 FA62m² 3BR 2TB 1.7M 0%Int 5yrs 645-3731

Nr C5 Res/Com TH 6M 3St FA156 0%Int 5yrs 645-3731

Pacific Place Ortigas 3BR 3TB Pkg SF 3.9M 6352115

Pasig 3M BN 140FA 89LA 4BR 3TB Nice • 645-3731

Renaissance 3BR 199m²@ 8.9M 223m² @9.5M 681-2457

QUEZON CITY

Cubao CondoP1.3M EZterm 9126976/9132224/4381480

Cubao 17door Apt Fully Conc Fin. 13M 645-3731

Nr G'hill 2BR 2TB 87m² BN RFO Nice Loc • 645-3731

Loyola Country Club Mansion/Thse Avail 6578185

Loyola Grand Mansion LA180 FA200 616M 657-8185

Mapayapa Vill Thse P2.2M Terms Call 412-1652 Jen

New Mla 172m² Bnew 6M 2Sty 3BR w/2CG 413-4411

Nova P5T/mo.10yrs 9390299

Nr Ateneo FA149m² LA72 4M 3BR 2BT • 645-3731

Nr EDSA Dplex 3BR LA80 FA80 BN nice loc • 645-3731

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

QUEZON CITY

Nr EDSA FA64 LA50 2TB BN nice loc 2.7M 645-3731

Nr West Ave F230m² 4.2M 3BR 4TB 2CG New 4134411

Panay Thse QC Newly Ren. 3Sty 5BR P5M • 928-3267

Scout Area 3BR 3TB 2CG MR w/TB 5.5M • 928-2497

Sta Mesa Hts 120m² 4.5M 3Sty 4BR w/2CG 413-4411

Teachers Vill QC 3BR 2TB 1CG P2.5M • 928-2497

Teresa Hts Bung 240m² 4br nr SM Fview 3.5M 9283267

RIZAL

VILLA OLYMPIA THSE Cainta, Rizal • 657-8185

SAN JUAN

South Admiral 490 sqm Rush! • Pager 1277-37052

Annapolis GH Condo 3BR 170m² Nice MdsRm 9283267

Eisenhower Comm'l Unit 53.80sqm • T531-3742

Francis Court San Juan LA200 FA269 • 928-2497

G'hills Condo 3BR P5.5M w/Huge Balcony •723-2391

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Greenhill Condo 1BR FA70 P3M • 723-2391

Greenhills Anapolis Condo 3BR P9-11M • 723-2391

Greenhills Eisenhower St. 3br Condo P6-8M 723-2391

Greenhills Ofc Condo 70m² w/Prkg P31M • 723-2391

Greenhills Thse 3BR FA180 2CarGrg • 723-2391 P6.8M

SAN JUAN CONDO 3BR 137 P4M • 723-2391

Eisenhower Twr 53.8sqm Furnished • 531-3742

Wack² Twin 2BR FA145 Facing Golf Crse 723-2391

PROVINCIAL

TH nr Marcos Hway Baguio FA108 71.7M • 911-7940

VARIOUS AREAS

Various Condo Ortigas, Pasig, Manda. 5346610 Jojo

MEMORIAL LOT

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FARM LOT 1.8 Has Baras Rizal along Hway 681-9868

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APARTMENT

KALOOCAN

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MAKATI

2BR Scrn grg 15T 8443622

Mkt. Apt. 4 rent T8954370

QUEZON CITY

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SANLO 3BR
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PARANAQUE

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QUEZON CITY

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CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

PALM VILLAGE 20T 3025395

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KIA

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on the extrajudicial settlement of the Estate of Spouses JOSE NERY and PAULA BARBIN NERY on February 9, 2001, duly acknowledged before Notary Public for Makati City, Atty. Dominga F. Calanglang, as Doc. No. 253, Page No. 52, Book No. II Series of 2001 of her notarial register.
(PDI-Feb. 23, Mar. 2, 9, 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given that S2#073986 under the name of DR. ENRICO R. AQUINO was lost.
(PDI-Feb. 23, 2001)

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SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

In the Matter of the
Adoption Petition of
BILLY J. VOSSLER
Adopting Parent

Case No 00AD00295
CITATION TO APPEAR

The People of the State of California
To RODELIO DELA FUENTE.

By order of this Court, you are hereby cited and required to appear before Department 124 of the above-entitled Court on June 4, 2001 at 8:30 a.m. then and there to show cause, if any you have, why JAN BENIGNO DELA FUENTE and MARK CHRISTIAN DELA FUENTE, minors should not be declared free from your parental control according to the petition on file herein to free the minors for adoption.

The address of the Court is: 3341 Power Inn Road, Sacramento, California 95826.

For a failure without reasonable cause to appear and abide by the order of the Court, you will be deemed guilty of a contempt of Court

The following information concerns rights and procedures which related to this proceeding for the termination of custody and control of JAN BENIGNO DELA FUENTE and MARK CHRISTIAN DELA FUENTE, as set forth in Sections 7867O-7864 of the Family Code.

(1) At the beginning of the proceeding the Court will consider whether or not the interest of JAN BENIGNO DELA FUENTE and MARK CHRISTIAN DELA FUENTE, require the appointment of counsel. If the Court finds that the interest of JAN BENIGNO DELA FUENTE and MARK CHRISTIAN DELA FUENTE do require such protection, the Court will appoint counsel to represent them, whether or not they are able to afford counsel. JAN BENIGNO DELA FUENTE and MARK CHRISTIAN DELA FUENTE, will not be present in Court unless they so request or the Court so orders.

(2) If a parent of JAN BENIGNO DELA FUENTE and MARK CHRISTIAN DELA FUENTE, appears without counsel and is unable to afford counsel, the Court must appoint counsel for the parent, unless the parent knowingly and intelligently waives the right to be represented by counsel. The Court will not appoint the same counsel to represent both JAN BENIGNO DELA FUENTE and MARK CHRISTIAN DELA FUENTE and their parent.

(3) The Court may appoint either the public defender or private counsel. If private counsel is appointed, he or she will receive a reasonable sum for compensation and expenses, the amount of which will be determined by the Court. That amount must be paid by the real parties in interest, but not by the minors, in such proportions as the Court believes to be just. If, however, the Court finds that any of the real parties in interest cannot afford counsel, the amount will be paid by the County.

(4) The Court may continue the proceeding for not more than thirty (30) days as necessary to appoint counsel and to enable counsel to become acquainted with the case

DATED: February 1, 2001

By: (Sgd.) F.M. Stevenson
Deputy Clerk

(PDI--Feb. 23, Mar. 2 & 9, 2001)

Republika ng Pilipinas
PAMBANSANG PANGASIWAAN NG PATUBIG
(National Irrigation Administration)
Lungsod ng Quezon

INVITATION TO BID
WRDPD-S-4
(DOMESTIC BIDDING)

Supply & Delivery of Various Computers & Paraphernalia

The Government of the Philippines has obtained a loan from the Work Bank for the prosecution of the Water Resources Development Project. Part of the loan shall be used to finance eligible payments including the procurement of Various Computers and Paraphernalia.

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) now as implementing Agency of the Project invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of the following:

Qty.	Unit	Description
81	Units	Desktop Computer, Intel Pentium III, 800 Mhz
15	Units	Laser Printer
66	Units	Dot Matrix Printer

Interested bidders may obtain bid documents starting **26 February 2001** to **15 March 2001** upon payment of a non-refundable amount of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000) at the Procurement Division, Ground Floor, NIA Bldg., Diliman, Quezon City, Tel. Nos. **921-3906** and **922-4768.**

Bids shall be publicly opened on **05 April 2001**, 2:00 p.m. at the Conference Room of the Asst. Administrator for Administrative Services, Ground Floor, NIA Bldg., Quezon City.

All bids must accompanied by a Bid Security of at least 2.5% of the total bid price.

The NIA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare the bidding a failure or waive any or all informalities or to award such bids to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **ISIDRO R. DIGAL**
Chairman

(PDI - Feb. 23. & Mar. 1, 2001)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

NOTICE OF BIDDING

In compliance with Presidential authority for the importation of rice, the National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce that it will be holding a pre-bidding and bidding conference among NFA accredited suppliers (government and private) on **March 06, 2001** and **March 8, 2001**, respectively at 2:00 PM at the NFA Boardroom, 10th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez, Sr. Ave., Quezon City for the supply of a portion thereof up to ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND (100,000) metric tons, 10% MOLSO, Long Grain White Rice 15% brokens and 25% brokens, packed in 50 kg net capacity, polypropylene bag, source from Vietnam, China and Thailand with shipment period not later than **April 15, 2001.** Detailed quality specifications shall be included in the bidding terms and conditions.

Price offers must be quoted in US$/MT, C&F, Free Out basis, 1 SP, 1-2 SB, basis at sight L/C and 180 days usance L/C. Maximum volume to be offered must be 50,000 MT and minimum of 25,000 MT, 10% MOLSO.

Sealed offers must be submitted between 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM on the bidding date accompanied by a bid bond equivalent to 10% of total offer in the form of Cashier's, Manager's check, bank or demand draft in US$ which must be drawn from a reputable Metro Manila bank or 100% stand-by irrevocable L/C valid for 120 days.

Opening of bids will start exactly at 2:00 PM.

Interested applicants for accreditation shall have until **March 05, 2001** to submit requirements for accreditation which may be secured from DMO-FOD, 5th Floor. Further, NFA accredited suppliers must submit documents to update records not later than 1700 HRS, **March 05, 2001.** Results of accreditation will be announced during the pre-bidding proper.

The bidding terms and conditions shall be available at the Foreign Operations Division - Directorate for Marketing Operations, 5th Floor starting **27 February 2001** from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any required formalities or defects found therein and may accept bid/s most advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) **DOMINGO F. PANGANIBAN**
Administrator

(PDI--Feb. 22, 23 & 24, 2001)

Republika ng Pilipinas
Pambansang Pangasiwaan ng Patubig
(NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION)
Lungsod ng Quezon

INVITATION TO BID
Bid No. TGISRP-0012-01

Supply & Delivery of Various Industrial Engines

The Philippine Government has obtained a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) for the prosecution of the Tarlac Groundwater Irrigation System Project. Part of the Loan shall be used to procure eligible expenditures as follows:

Qty.	Unit	Description
9	Sets	Industrial Diesel Engine
9	Sets	Right Angle Gear Drive (RAGD)

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) as the Implementing Agency of the Project, invites eligible bidders to participate in the tender. Interested bidders may obtain bid documents from **5 to 15 March 2001** at the Procurement Division, Ground Floor, NIA Bldg., Diliman, Quezon City. Tel. Nos. 9213906 & 9224768 upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00).

A Pre-bid Conference shall be held on **27 March 2001**, 2:00 PM at the Conference Room of the Assistant Administrator for Administrative Services, Ground Floor, NIA Bldg., Quezon City.

Bids must be delivered and shall be publicly opened on **17 April 2001**, 2:00 PM at the same venue.

All bids must be accompanied by Bid Security equivalent to at least 2% of the total bid price.

The NIA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare the bidding a failure or waive any or all informalities or to award such bids to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **ISIDRO R. DIGAL**
Chairman

(PDI – Feb. 23, 2001)

PROCUREMENT & PROPERTY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
Building 255, SBMA Centre, Barryman Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone,
Olongapo City, Philippines 2222
Tel. Nos. 252-4214 • 4124-4281 Fax No. (63-47) 252-4284

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID FOR THE SALE OF ASSORTED CUT LOGS "AS IS, WHERE IS"

	ITEM DESCRIPTION/LOCATION	SCHEDULE OF BIDDING
I	Assorted cut log of different sizes and kind Stockpiled/located at Tipo TLS, Project Site, SBMA on "AS IS, WHERE IS" basis.	March 14, 2001, 2:00 PM (Wednesday)

II Only accredited lumber trader and sawmill operators are invited to the bidding and are requested to submit the following Pre-qualification documents at the Procurement and Property Management Department (PPMD), Room 201, 2nd Floor, Bldg. 255, SBMA at the Subic Bay Freeport Zone.
1. Certificate of Accreditation from Trade and Tourism Group or PPMD, SBMA.
2. Latest Income Tax Return (ITR) of the bidder (1999) or copies of Audited Financial Statement of the Company and Certification of Cash Deposit by a reputable bank.

III. Deadline for submission of Pre-qualification Papers is on **February 28, 2001, Wednesday** (5:00 pm).

IV. Pre-Bid Conference and Issuance of Forms (P250.00 per set) will be on **March 7, 2001**, Wednesday (3:00 PM).

V. Bid Bond, in the form of cash or manager's check equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the total bid price in favor of SBMA, is required.

VI. Sealed Bid in prescribed form shall be received until 2:00 PM on **March 14, 2001** at the Procurement and Property Management Department (PPMD), Room 201, 2nd Floor, Bldg. 255, SBMA at the Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

VII. For other information, inquiries and/or request for inspection, call Tel No. (047) 252-4214/ 4424/4501 (c/o Danny Sanchez).

VIII. SBMA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality found therein or to reject/accept such bids as may be deemed most advantageous to SBMA.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO A. INOCENTES**
DA for Admin
Chairman, Disposal, Bids & Awards Committee, SBMA

(PDI--Feb. 21, 22 & 23, 2001)

PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION
Bldg. 1, Energy Center, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Makati, Metro Manila
Tel. 893-1320 or 893-6001 Loc. 1120
Fax No. (632) 845-3090

PNOC
The Energy Company

INVITATION TO BID

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC-EC) invites eligible suppliers to submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

PR NO. SG 214 102 - TRANSFORMER; 4,000 kVA

This invitation is open to all accredited suppliers of PNOC-Energy Group of Companies.

Bid documents shall be available for issuance to accredited suppliers starting **February 14, 2001.**

For the purpose of clarifications, a pre-bidding conference will be conducted at the above address on March 1, 2001 at 2:00 PM.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount stipulated in the tender documents in the forms acceptable to PNOC-EC. Sealed technical and financial bids in two (2) sets shall be received by the PNOC-EC Purchasing not later than 2:00 p.m. of **March 8, 2001** at the above address. Late bids will not be accepted. Public opening of the technical bids will follow thereafter. The schedule of the financial bid opening will be formally advised to participating bidders and only the bids of the technically complying bidders shall be opened.

PNOC-EC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, or to accept such bids or to award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to PNOC-EC.

(Sgd.) **RAFAEL E. DEL PILAR**
Vice President & COO

(PDI – Feb. 23, 2001)

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SOFTWARE VENTURES INTERNATIONAL

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO AUCTION

The National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce that it shall be conducting a sealed auction on **02 March 2001** at 2:00 PM at the NFA Boardroom, 10th Floor, 101 Matimyas Building, E.Rodriguez, Sr., Avenue, Quezon City for the allocation of quotas to NFA licensed grains importers and wholesalers/ retailers covering the initial importation of 7,500 MT of Premium, Fancy and Glutinous rice.

Interested auctioner/s should be able to comply with the following which shall be submitted to DMO-FOD, 5th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E.Rodriguez, Sr., Avenue, Quezon City not later than **28 February 2001.**

a. A duly notarized authorization from the owner, chairman, partner or president of the sole proprietorship, partnership, company, corporation or cooperative certifying that:
    a.1 He/She is presently connected with the foregoing entity either as owner, official, employee or present stockholder/ shareholder;
    a.2 He/She is authorized to represent the entity to the pre-auction, auction proper and all activities pertinent therein.

b. Updated/valid NFA license as importer and wholesaler/retailer. It is understood that the winning auctioner/s shall comply with other NFA rules and regulations on NFA licensing as deemed appropriate.

The 7,500 MT shall be auctioned at a indicative equalization fee bid of PHP 3,240.00 per MT. Maximum quantity to be offered per importer is 1,000 MT.

All interested auctioners shall be subjected to payment/ posting of bid bond equivalent to 10% of total bid price in the form of cash cashier's check or Manager's check.

The pre-auction conference will be held on **28 February 2001** at 2:00 PM at the NFA Boardroom.

Interested auctioners may secure the Guidelines in the Importation of Premium, Fancy and Glutinous Rice by the Private Sector starting **22 February 2001** (8:00 AM to 5:00 PM) from DMO-FOD, 5th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E.Rodriguez, Sr., Avenue, Quezon City.

Winning auctioners shall be issued a Permit to Import Rice after payment of the required Equalization Fee. It is understood that the tariff/duty of 50% shall be paid by the importer.

Auction documents will be available on **28 February 2001** after the pre-auction conference upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PHP 2,000.00.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all, to waive any informality thereof and to accept only such bid/s as are advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) **DOMINGO F. PANGANIBAN**
Administrator

(PDI – Feb 22, 23 & 24, 2001)

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
PEZA

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The **PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY (PEZA)** invites interested authorized Philippine distributors to pre-qualify and eventually to bid, if qualified, for the supply and delivery of seven (7) units of Brand New Factory-Assembled/ Packaged, Diesel Electric Generator Sets for the Cavite Economic Zone (CEZ).

The generators must have a 60 KW (75 KVA) Stand-by power output at 1800 r.p.m.; 3-phase, steel frame and anti-vibration mounting pads; electric starting system with heavy duty lead acid type batteries; with 8 hours or more fuel tank capacity; automatic shutdown protection system and control monitoring devices; including other accessories, manuals, and training of personnel.

Tender documents may be secured from February 23-March 6, 2001 upon the payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (PhP 2,000.00) from the PBAC Secretariat c/o Linda Cruz or Pauline Soliman at the 3/F Almeda Bldg., Roxas Blvd. corner San Luis Sts., Pasay City.

Pre-qualification requirements must be submitted to the PBAC Secretariat not later than March 8, 2001 at 5:00 p.m.

PEZA reserves the right to reject any application or all bids or any part thereof, to waive any defect or informality therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset the expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids, and will entertain only such bid/s established to be most advantageous to PEZA.

The Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Feb. 23, 25 & March 3, 2001)

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OUR DEARLY BELOVED

RAFAEL G. SOLIS

of Medicion, Imus, Cavite

has peacefully joined his Creator on February 16, 2001 at the age of 63.

His bereaved wife **Nellie**; children **Arman** and **Anadel**, **Tito** and **Chic**, **Joey** and **Violy**, **Liza**, **Tess** and **Ed**, **Jofer**, **Mert** and **Jasmin**, **Ranel** and **Andrew**; brother **Ernesto**; sisters **Dra. Ester**, **Nenie** and **Dra. Nellie Solis Orlino**; in-laws; **Enriqueta** and **Dr. Marcos Orlino**; grandchildren, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Angelus Chapel, Toclong I, Imus, Cavite.

Interment will be on Sunday, February 25, 2001 at Imus Cemetery after the 2:00 p.m. Holy Mass at Angelus Chapel.

NICASIA QUILILAN GAVINIO

on February 20, 2001 at the age of 84

joined her Creator, Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and her daughter Sister May, SPC.

We, her loving family – her husband **Ramon A. Gavinio**; her children **Leni**, **Nedi**, **Ibarra**, **Ramon Jr.**, **Jesusa**, **Marcelino**, **Rita**, **Marilou**, **Milrose**; and their families; her brothers and sisters and their families – thank our Heavenly Father for the very, very precious gift that she was in our lives.

She lies in state at the Gavinio residence in Bachiller Compound, 470 Aquende Avenue, in Legazpi City.

Interment will be at the Bicol Memorial Park on Saturday, February 24 at 7:00 a.m. after a 6:00 a.m. service at the Assemblies of God Pentecostal Church in Camia St., Imperial Court Subdivision 2, Legazpi City.

Jesus said *"He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."*

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord"
2 Cor. 5:8

ELSA TRINIDAD ESCANO

Died in the Grace of the Lord on February 20, 2001 at the age of 68.

She is survived by her ex-husband **Nestor Escano**; her loving children **Raffy** and **Ruth**, **Martin** and **Marichu**, **Rica** and **Gilbert**, and **Aizen**; grandchildren **Francis**, **Junel**, **Miguel**, **Ynna**, **Regine**, **Rebecca**, **Pete**, and **Phillippe**; brothers and sisters **Sylvia**, **Celia** and **Peping**, **Pura** and **Tony**, **Boy** and **Dory**, **Ben** and **Alice**, **Ting** and **Eva**.

Her remains lie in state at the Premier Chapel of Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes, Camus Ext., Davao City.

Interment will be on Saturday, February 24, 2001, 8:00 a.m. at the Davao Memorial Park.

Atty. Agerico Sison Rosario

Former Acting Governor and Board Member of the Province of Pangasinan and Former OIC Mayor of Manaoag, Pangasinan

has joined his Creator, Mommy Corazon and his departed loved ones on February 19, 2001 at the age of 63.

His loving wife Monette; children John and Des, Jerry and Maur, Ming and Twiggy, Joselle, Joel and Josef; his brother Arnulfo; sister Eling; and grandchildren Joshua, Bianca, Bernice, Justin, Ina and Jericho; request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at their residence in Manaoag, Pangasinan.

Interment follows a Holy Mass at the Our Lady of Most Holy Rosary Church of Manaoag on Wednesday, February 28, 2001 at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

Our Dearly Beloved

MIENRADO A. LECHUGA

Chief Accountant, Prudential Bank, Pasig Branch
of Mauban, Quezon and Marikina City

has peacefully joined his Creator on February 21, 2001 at the age of 53.

His bereaved wife **Dory**; children **Jomar**, **Ma. Christine** and **Ma. Amor**; brothers **Msgr. Boanerges A. Lechuga**, **Romeo A. Lechuga** and **Armando A. Lechuga** (†), sisters-in-law **Annie** and **Marissa**, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington East, the Garden Chapel, C. Raymundo Ave., cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel, Pasig City; will be transferred to San Roque Parish Church (in front of Caloocan City Hall) A. Mabini St., Kalookan City on February 24, 2001 at 7:00 a.m.

Interment will be on Sunday, February 25, 2001 at the Lady of Lourdes Eternal Gardens, Letre, Malabon, Metro, Manila after the 2:00 p.m. Concelebrated High Mass to be officiated by Bishop Teodoro C. Bacani, Jr., D.D. at the San Roque Parish Church, Kalookan City.

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of Lucban, Quezon and Makati City Building Official

has peacefully joined his Creator on February 16, 2001 at the age of 42.

We wish to convey our condolences to his family: father Amado; brother Tony and sister Vina and we request his friends to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel in Tagumpay St., R. Magsaysay Blvd., V. Mapa, Sta. Mesa, Manila and shall be transferred on the night of February 23, 2001 to his home province in Gomburza St., Lucban, Quezon.

Interment will be announced later.

ERRATUM

In the Death Anniversary Notice of ILUMINADO "LUMING" GALVEZ, M.D. published Feb. 22, 2001 the year of death should have been **Feb. 22, 2000** and not Feb. 22, 2001.

The name of one of the children was misprinted TEDDY instead of **PEDY**.

The Family

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2 Cor. 4:14

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BUSINESS Friday

MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

Communication experts to GMA: Seize initiative

By Dante M. Velasco

FROM a social marketing standpoint, the Macapagal-Arroyo presidency is a change program "waiting in the wings." But the program suddenly needed to be fast-tracked into a grand launch because events made it imperative to bring it out of "suspense file" into an active and fast developing program at the execution phase.

In the corporate world, this is a program or a product launch that should be staged to take advantage of an unexpected and irreversible development in the market.

The end of the Estrada government created a leadership vacuum. But, the speed with which it happened rewarded the camp best prepared for it; the same camp to which belongs the one constitutionally mandated to take over the vacated presidential post.

Running in what direction

A month into the presidency, GMA has truly "hit the ground running." The question by some sectors is, "running" in what direction?

Her Cabinet is almost complete; the charges against the former Palace occupant and his cronies have been readied; and the business community has been giving her warm welcome and giving bright forecasts.

And yet propelled by people power, GMA is both driven and pressured by the high expectations of many sectors —and they want her to get results fast. These sectors also closely monitor every step she takes and every decision she makes, ever ready to get their voices heard.

No doubt, GMA has a clear vision, but what is it?

Wellspring of Edsa II

"The President should anchor her administration on public values and moral foundations," says Reynaldo Guioguio, president of Philippine Communications Society. He points out that Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, for example, is on the right as he files charges against Estrada and his friends, because he is communicating GMA's commitment to restore high morality in government. He calls it the "wellspring of Edsa II."

The communication initiatives of GMA is "akin to building a cathedral," says Jose Lacson Jr., Ph.D, chair of the Communication Research Department of UP College of Mass Communication. "One does not build for the sake of money; or because that is what people want," he points out. "GMA should build and hand down a legacy, something tangible and useful for the next generation," directing the President to pursue the path of statesmanship.

"Gloria must keep faith with Edsa II—for truth, morality and decency," says Herminio "Sonny" Coloma, "and must communicate such message much better through media. Sonny, who is associate dean of the Asian Institute of Management and former managing head of the Presidential Management Staff under the Cory Aquino government, recalled the "Cory times."

When Cory became President after Edsa I, the situation was no less problematic, Sonny recalls. "There was the Gulf War and the oil price hike," and Cory's image was still hazy. But we made a conscious effort to convey a powerful message—that of a new head of state with a compelling moral crusade."

A book, "Right from the Start," recommends two things for anyone assuming a leadership role in transition: She should create, one, a center of gravity; two, a momentum. The experts agree that the President should be perceived as "anchoring her governance on values inherent in Edsa II."

Program first, info drive next

With those high ideals settled, the President must have a clear program of government, say the specialists.

"I am going by one basic principle in communication—that is, government has to substantiate its program with specifics before it goes out and talks to the public about it," says Marlene Ochoa, former Caltex communication manager and currently CEO of Themes and Strategies Co.

"Then and only then can a public information program be drawn up," she adds. "Enhancing government position and making room for broader participation and broad-based support."

GMA enjoys public confidence that she knows what she wants or aspires for—in general terms. But they need specifics. "I think GMA's overall world view is clear—focus on the poor and doing something for Mindanao. However, people want to see the 'how' in concrete terms, beyond motherhood statements," says Corie Veloso, communication consultant and Ph.D. candidate in UP.

Bobby Manzano, communication manager of Coca-Cola Export Corp. says that all of GMA's programs must proceed from her stated core beliefs.

"Gloria must speak of her program where her real strength lies—economics," Bingo Dejaresco, banker and financial columnist, says. "The masses are waiting for her to tell them what she would do with the P225 billion deficit by end of 2001. She should start showing her mettle with a wide-ranging economic program."

Celebrity status and image

Whether GMA likes it or not, she has a celebrity status—before Edsa II, and more so after it. After all, she is the President of the Republic.

She does not, therefore, need to use bombast—like "I shall crush you"—to make her point. "That is a stark contrast to her slight, diminutive figure," Ochoa points out. Dejaresco calls it "disappropriate."

A chief marketing officer, Romeo Elbinias, wants to see GMA as the Filipino version of Margaret Thatcher—"firm, warm person—combining elegance with an iron will."

Seize the communication initiative

GMA presides over a large organization and analogies with any corporate entity pales in comparison. Comparing her task even with global firm CEOs like Jack Welch or Bill Gates would be unfair, because her constituencies are largely not paid as employees, and she is

COMMUNICATION/ B12

Vending is more than plopping a machine on a business corner

IN THE ever-quickening pace of the modern world, simple pleasures like brooding over a hot cup of early-morning coffee, leisurely sipping at an ice-cold drink, or munching on a filling snack is threatening to go extinct.

PHILIPPINE Vending believes vending gives people access to products that they want and need.

Today, countless factors ranging from more competitive workplaces, longer traffic ridden commutes, and not to mention tighter business schedules have combined to keep the average working man or woman constantly on the move.

It is this phenomenon that has given rise to the mushrooming of various vending machines in areas with high "people traffic" such as waiting areas, factories, offices, hospitals, and even schools.

Up close and personal

The vending business has always been viewed as a part-time scheme. Make no mistake about it, however, vending entails more than just plopping a single machine on some busy corner and waiting to get rich out of the pesos and centavos that passers-by will hopefully pump in.

"First and foremost, vending is a business of numbers. This means that it becomes profitable only when an operator has established a huge chain of vending machines spread over a substantially large area. The first impression about vending is actually very far from the truth. It is not a franchise business," says Patrick Pesengco, president of Philippine Vending Corp.

Philippine Vending, one of the pioneers in the local vending business, operates over 1,000 vending machines in key public places such as MRT stations; schools like the University of the Philippines, Ateneo and De La Salle; hospitals like Makati Medical Center and PGH; as well as the corporate offices of Intel and Bank of the Philippine Islands.

The core of their business is installing and operating the vending machines as well as prompt and regular refilling of the items that are being dispensed such as hot and cold drinks, sandwiches, noodles, snacks and candies.

According to Herwin See, Philippine Vending chief operating officer, as equally important as making their vending machines pervasive is ensuring that the operation is continuous and reliable. In a business that promises convenience, it is critical that potential patrons will consistently find that the product of their choice is in fact available.

Sustaining a venture for 25 years by putting personal touches

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

MARKETING STRATEGY

TODAY'S Internet age has created an increasingly impersonal culture. People now rarely take time to write a personal note or even talk face to face.

Even gift giving has become impersonal—many get several pieces of one item to give away to different people.

This trend, however, has also spawned a counter culture that puts premium on personalized items, handmade products and crafts.

Papemelroti has been in this business long before the trend surfaced. The chain provides that personal touch that enabled the family-run store to remain in business for almost 25 years.

Patricia A. Paterno (the Pa in Papemelroti) tells Business Friday that the store managed to keep a loyal customer base and reach out to new customers despite minimal advertising. She attributes this mainly to customer service that includes personalizing items to suit the request of customers.

"If they are willing to wait, we can accommodate requests of customers to use their own poems or to have a special design for the plaques that we sell. I guess this is one way that we have been able to keep our customers. We do a lot of custom made items," Paterno explains.

Customers place their orders mostly through the mall outlets and also through the website papemelroti.com.

Providing that personal touch and relationship with customers was taught by Papemelroti founder Socorro Paterno, Patricia's mom. She started the business that now includes 12 stores from a mere hobby. The children, who are now very much involved in the business except for the only boy, strive to run the business the same way.

Paterno adds that Papemelroti remains on the top of people's minds when they are shopping for a gift by coming up with new designs to keep abreast of the latest trends.

"We come up with designs almost every week. We get a lot of feedback from our customers so we know which designs are popular. Two of my sisters (the Pe and Mel in the company name) do a lot of the designs," Paterno says.

Among their latest products are wedding and corporate giveaways. Like most of the designs, the giveaways are made of resin and the design inspired by nature. Many also have a Christian theme.

Personal Prayers
PAPEMELROTI has expanded into giveaways

"Many of our giveaways are functional like our picture frames, candles and containers. We also have a lot of corporate accounts that we course through our outlets. We went into this new market because of the demand," Paterno says.

Where to base the computation of the transaction value

By Mark P. Tamayo
SGV & Co.

(Last of a series)

TAX-FILES

AS DEFINED under Republic Act No. 8181 and the WTO Customs Valuation Agreement, the transaction value (TV) of an imported merchandise is based on the price actually paid or payable for such goods when sold for export to the Philippines.

If the TV, therefore, is based on the price paid or payable, one question that may be raised is whether the so-called "Blue Book or Red Book" would still be applicable as an alternative value reference for purposes of determining the duty base.

The Blue Book or the Karo, and the Japanese and US Red Book, may have served as the published value of imported vehicles for purposes of comparison with the previous valuation method, particularly the Home Consumption Value (HCV) method.

The reason is precisely because under the HCV system, the primary value reference was the domestic selling price of the imported goods in the principal markets of the country from where exported.

Since the "Blue Book or Red Book" is a compilation of the retail factory price of cars issued by various car manufacturers, it provided an alternative value reference in determining the correct HCV of imported vehicles.

Under the TV system, however, any reference to these books could be the subject of a protest considering the prices quoted in these books may or may not have any relation to the actual transaction price between the importer and the supplier.

The prices in the Blue or Red Books, thus, do not and cannot fit into the definition of the TV, particularly because it is not the price necessarily paid or payable by the buyer to the supplier.

Furthermore, these books reflect prices that are applicable to any buyer from any country.

Assuming for the sake of argument that these values are considered as published values, they cannot be used as basis to determine customs value under the TV system. This is because the published values are seen as a form of minimum value that is expressly prohibited under Article 7(2) (f) of the Agreement on implementation of Article VII of the GATT.

If the TV is based on the price paid or payable when sold for export to the Philippines, another issue that may be raised is whether the transaction price between the manufacturer of the goods and the middleman can be used as TV for duty purposes rather than the price between the middleman and ultimate importer, especially in multiple transactions.

The situation calls for application of the so-called "first sale for export value" concept wherein more than one viable TV on the purchase of a particular merchandise exists.

An example of the first sale for export value scenario may be illustrated as follows: ABC Co., a manufacturing company produces a product which is sold at $8,000 to XYZ Co., a sales and marketing company. ABC Co. and XYZ Co. may or may not be from the same country. XYZ Co. then sells the product at $10,000 onward to JKL Co. in the Philippines.

Normally, the price between XYZ Co. and JKL Co. should be used as basis in determining the customs value for duty purposes. Under the principle of "first sale for export value," however, the transaction price between ABC Co. and XYZ Co. may be used as basis for customs value.

The question is whether this concept is applicable in the light of the TV system under RA 8181, which the Philippines has adopted from the provisions of the WTO Customs Valuation Agreement.

One of the pioneers of the TV system is the United States. US courts had already rendered decisions addressing this issue of multiple sales.

In the case of E. C. McAfee Co., et al v. United States, et al., 6 Fed. Cir (T) 92, 842 F. 2d 314 (1988), the plaintiffs challenged the decision by the customs service that the value of made-to-measure wearing apparel from Hong Kong when sold to US customers by a Hong Kong distributor represented the transaction value of the goods.

The plaintiff claimed that the transaction value should have been based on the price paid to the distributor of fabric, tailoring and packing.

The US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit (CAFC), in reversing the holding of the Court of International Trade (CIT), ruled that transaction value should be based upon the price the distributor paid the tailor because "the reality of the transaction between the distributors and the tailors is that the goods, at the time of the transaction between the distributors and tailors, are for exportation to the US."

The clothing is made-to-measure for individual US customers and ultimately shipped to these particular customers.

The court proceeded to indicate that the determination that goods are being sold or assembled for export to the US is fact-specific and may only be made on a case-by-case basis.

In this particular case, the merchandise is unique in that from the time of the initial contact until the eventual importation, the made-to-measure clothing was being made for a specific US customer and not the US market in general.

In the case of Nissho Iwai American Corp. v. United States, 15 CIT 644, 780 F. Supp.828 [withdrawn] (1991), 11 Fed. Cir. (T), 982 F.2d 505 (1992) reprinted in Customs Record, Vol.,. 5, No. 257 (Dec. 31, 1992), the dispute between the parties arose over whether the valuation of imported subway cars should be based upon the contract price between MTA, a US purchaser and Nissho Iwai American Corp. (Nissho American), or the price paid by Nissho American's parent company, Nissho Iwai Corp. (NIC Japan), to the manufacturer of the cars.

The US CAFC held that it is the contract between the foreign manufacturer of the subway cars (KHI) and the middleman (NIC), which serves as the basis for determining transaction value.

The court stated that the fact-specific inquiry which must be performed on a case-by-case basis is only with respect to determining whether a certain sales price meets the statutory definition of transaction value.

Once it is determined that there is more than one viable transaction value, the "rule is straightforward: the manufacturer's price, rather than the price from the middleman to the purchaser, is used as a basis for determining transaction value."

The court stated that the importer is entitled to the benefit of that valuation even though customs' valuation also satisfies the same statutory requirements in cases where the importer establishes that his claimed lower valuation is proper under the statute.

In other words, the CAFC decisions provided a simple, objective rule to use in these multiple sale transactions. In situations where there are multiple sales before exportation, the first question to be decided is whether there is more than one transaction value, which requires more than one "sale for exportation" to the US that satisfies the statutory criteria.

If there is more than one sale for exportation to the US, each of these sales must be examined to determine if it meets the statutory definition of transaction value. After having performed these two exercises, if more than one transaction value exists, the manufacturer's price, rather than the price for the middleman to his customer, is used for appraisal."

While these decisions were rendered in the US and arguably, may not be applicable in the Philippine setting at the moment, these cases may be seriously considered in the interpretation of the phrase "when sold to the Philippines" as used in RA No. 8181 and in the implementing rules.

Since there is no local jurisprudence dealing specifically on the matter, the issue would be judged according to a case of first impression. The BOC as well as the local courts may have to rely on foreign jurisprudence on the matter.

Conclusion

The TV system appears to be much more complicated than the past valuation systems we had considering that the proper determination of the customs value may require an in-depth analysis of the relationship between the importer and his foreign supplier and the possible existence of "side payments."

Under Article 17 of the WTO Customs Agreement, however, it is mandated that the analysis be undertaken without prejudice to the unhampered release of the goods in question. Thus, a post-entry audit is apparently inherent under the TV system and has in fact been adopted under Customs Memorandum Order No. 25-99.

But since the declaration of the particulars of the importation on the entry is based on self-assessment, the burden of proof to show that the declaration is untruthful lies with the BOC.

Normally, however, a process of consultation should be made between the customs authorities and the importer with a view to arriving at a basis of value.

It may be argued that the TV system, though a bit complicated, provides more certainty and predictability in customs valuation, thus, facilitates trading. On the other hand, the TV system may be criticized as a system prone to dumping which may endanger the viability of domestic industries.

Either way, the TV system is an internationally accepted valuation system that is essentially based on the actual agreed price between the buyer and the seller. A correct application and interpretation of the TV methods may certainly result in a reduction of importation costs.

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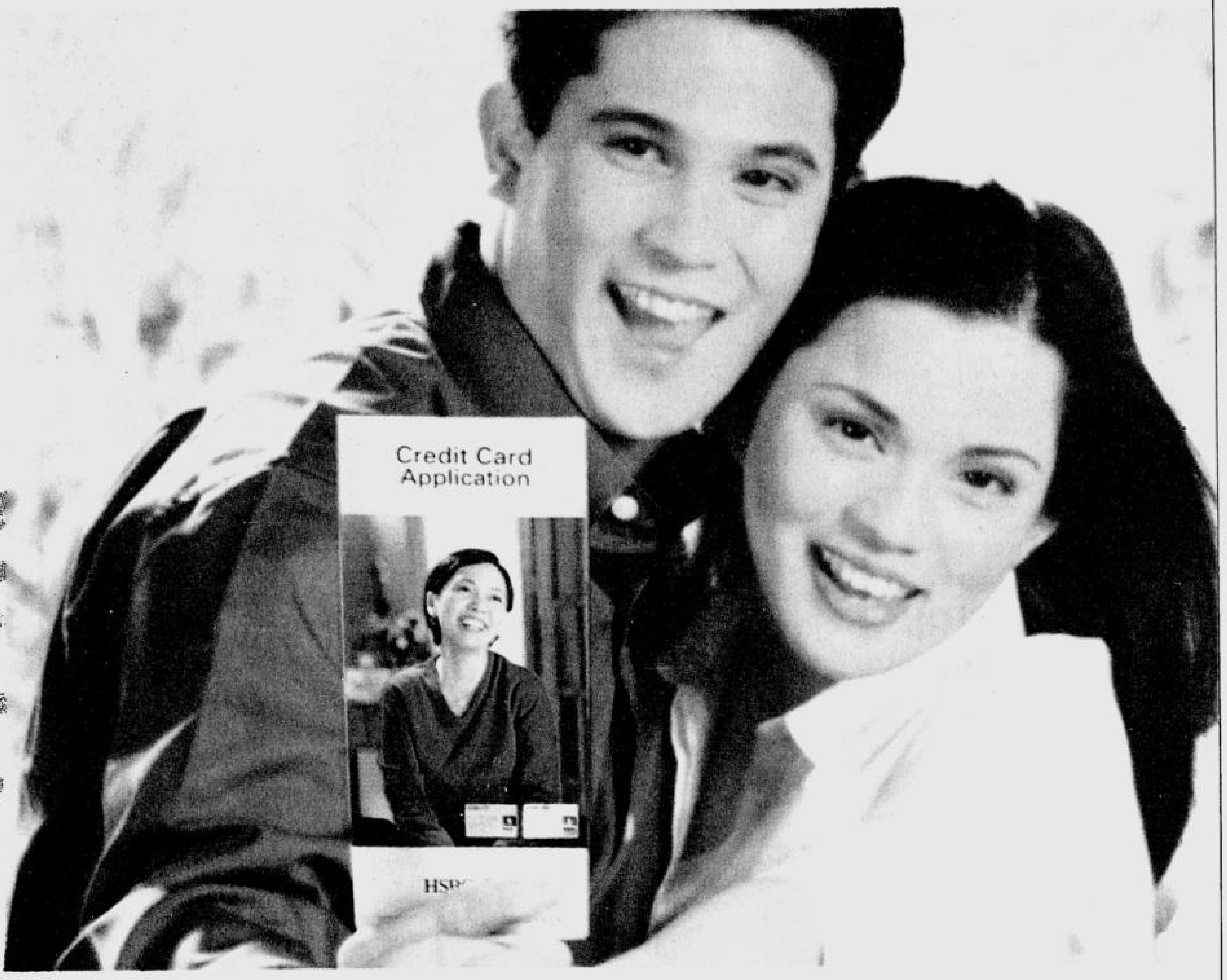

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Communication...

(From page B11)

managing social and political forces.

Still, she needs to seize the communication initiative. Media remains a vast battleground, the same sector that hates a vacuum. Propagandists around and against her are using such vacuum to send their own messages. Result: a cacophony of voices including that of the former President bidding for public attention. The wish of observers is that GMA and her information managers would seize the communication initiative.

GMA must give "communication mandates" to each agency in government, says Lacson—roads and bridges for public works, clinics and immunization programs for health, knowledge and values for education, etc. The yardstick remains. Performance=Results, UP's research head stresses.

Part of sustaining the communication momentum is to use alternative media, according to Jones T. Campos, assistant vice president of Globe Telecoms. "Our new President, who has an excellent grasp of the New Economy, should consider using alternative media—like the Internet and "texting" in implementing her image and goodwill building programs." There are already more than five million cell phones in the Philippines, and thus you have a ready vehicle, Jones points out.

Still a possibility: A 'great president'

Being swept into power dramatically actually gives the President the opportunity for greatness, not for her sake, but for a country that has been dragged to the depths of embarrassment and despair.

Guioguio wants her to lead her Cabinet for a much-needed reinventing. "I know that she did not have much time to train new faces in her Cabinet, so she had to recruit competent and experienced ones, even if they are perceived to be traditional politicians," he says. But, they should start reinventing themselves to reflect the Edsa spirit, he adds.

A shining hour is what GMA needs, says Coloma. "Remember that Manny Villar, Nene Pimentel, Franklin Drilon, Joker Arroyo, Hilario Davide had their shining moment," he points out.

Would GMA consider this thought? Sonny asks. Suppose she decides that she limit her watch as President for only three years, forget about 2004, and declare that she just wants to lay the groundwork for recovery and growth? Then, she would not be a "political President" . . . and she could be the greatest President of all time, Sonny muses.

The GMA presidency was a grand launch. Its promise is now being tested in the marketplace. An evolving presidency, it can actually rise to heights of greatness or sink to depths of traditional politics. Communication has the power to deliver compelling messages about the vision, goals and higher purposes of the President. But only GMA can provide the substance and the imperatives of higher purposes.

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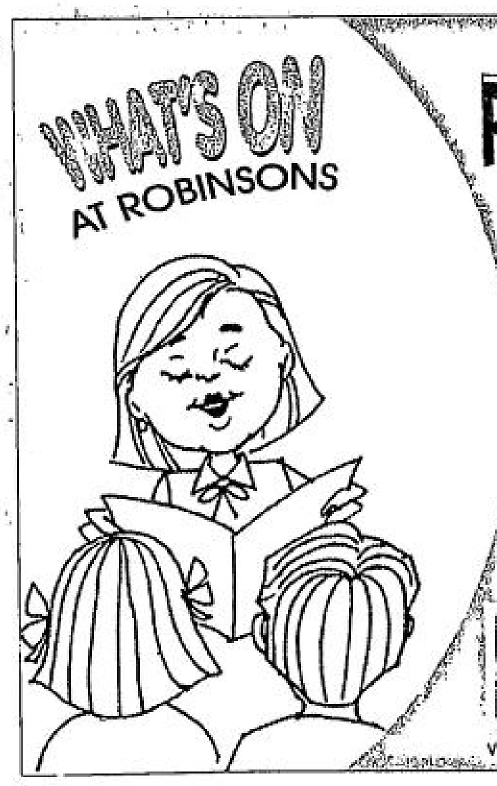

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Flower power at Baguio's Panagbenga festival

By Tita V. Giron

THIS year's Panagbenga flower festival in Baguio was even bigger and more memorable than previous events. Attendance-wise, it brought the biggest crowd ever to the summer capital since the Big Earthquake in 1990.

Historically, it will be remembered as the flower-studded weekend that brought to Baguio heroes of Edsa I and Edsa II led by no less than President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and former President Fidel Ramos. They attended the Philippine Military Academy's annual homecoming ceremony along with a delegation of former officers, notably Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan and Rodolfo Biazon.

But the real excitement was on Session Road where the Panagbenga street dancing was held last Saturday followed by the floral parade on Sunday. As expected, Tourism Secretary Dick Gordon opened these main events as he led the street dancing from the old street of Camp John Hay to the Melvin Jones grandstand at lower Session Road.

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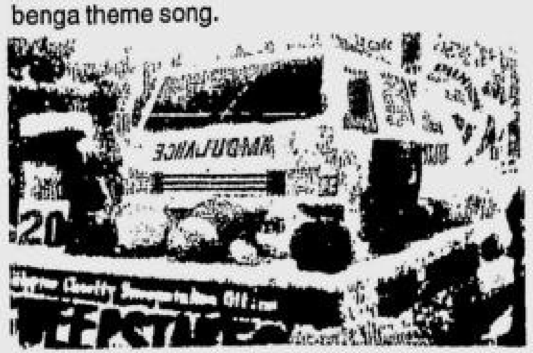
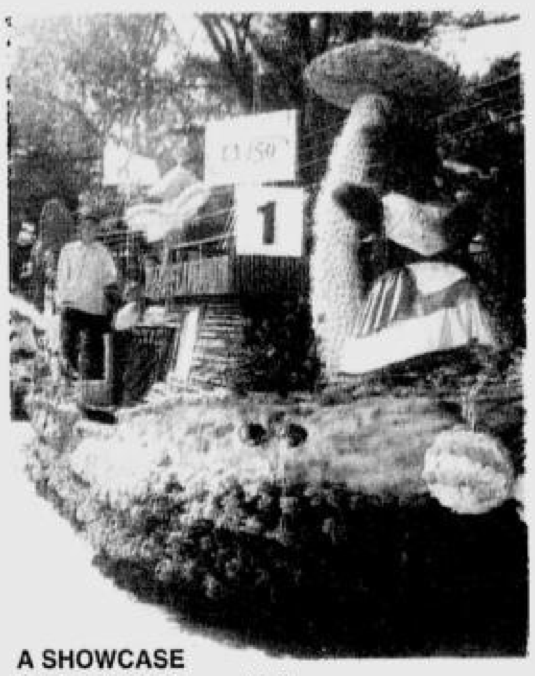
WELL-APPLAUDED school band plays Panagbenga theme song.



WHITE mums deck the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes float

Visitors gawked at flower-decked floats while senatorial aspirants worked the crowds



A SHOWCASE of Baguio flowers and foliage

Flower power at Baguio's Panagbenga festival

(From page C1)

It didn't surprise us to see Sen. Frank Drilon and Solita Monsod exchanging flower talks with the flower people and shaking hands with the rest of the spectators. After the parade, they were seen being interviewed by local TV.

Other May election candidates would eat their hearts out to see how Manny Villar had the crowd eating out of his hands at the Sunday floral parade. Villar paraded down Session Road, posed beside the floats and the bands for picture taking, was ambushed for an interview by the media, shook hands and kissed babies.

Record Baguio visitors

"You couldn't drop a pin in that crowd," a local tourism official told us. Apart from thr politicians, visitors that weekend included families, couples, company employees, civic organizations and tour groups from abroad.

We saw several garden club folks from Manila such as the Cactus and Succulent Society, the Philippine Horticulture Society and Philippine Orchid Society.

The official said that all hotels, inns and cottages were fully booked. We saw how many drop-in visitors pleaded to be accommodated at the historic Baden Powell Inn where we stayed. The official added that bus companies had to add dispatch additional trips to accommodate the visitors. Victory Liner, for example, made trips every 15 minutes instead of the regular hourly schedule.

Panagbenga is a word from the tribe Kankanaey which means "a season for blossoming, a time for flowering." It

FLOWER/ p.C7

BAGUIO City float

CHOREOGRAPHED street dancing on Session Road PHOTOS: TOOTS SOBERANO AND ROBERT ABAÑO

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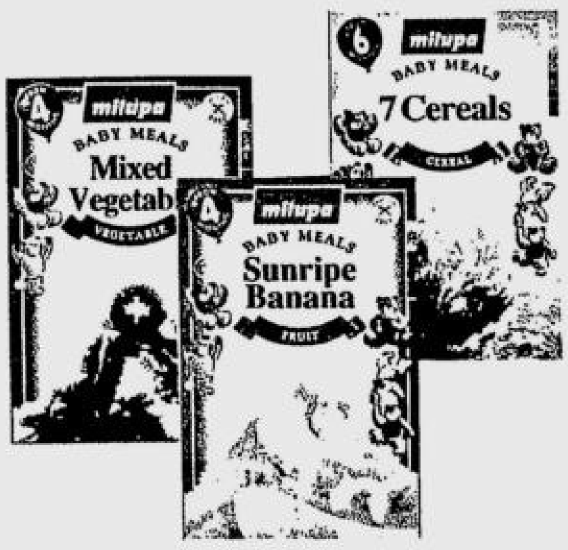

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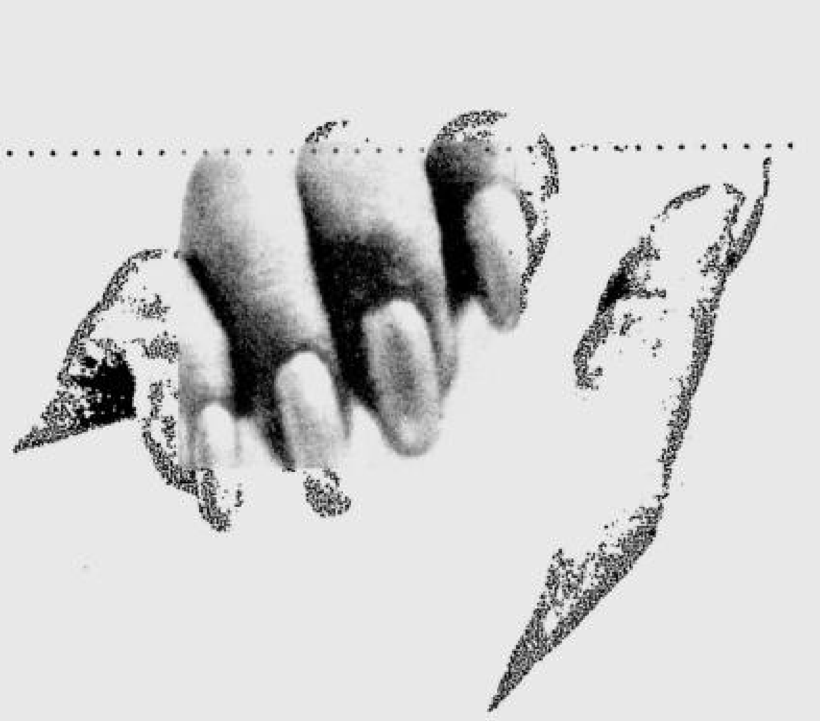

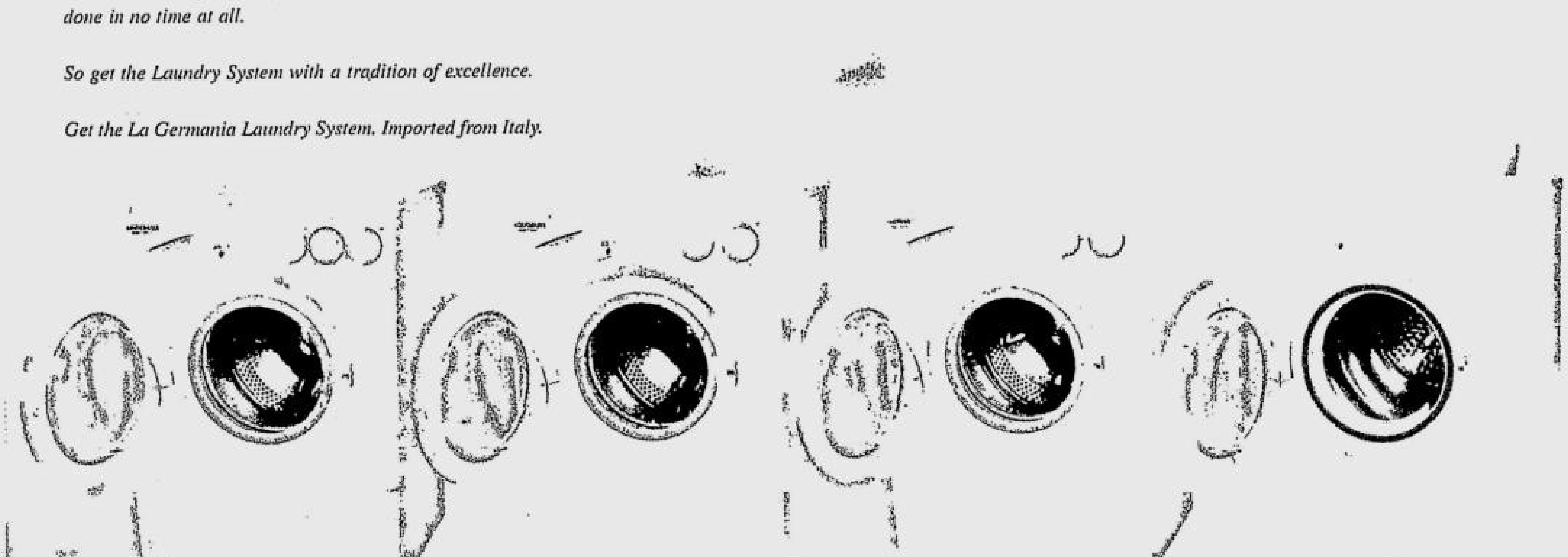

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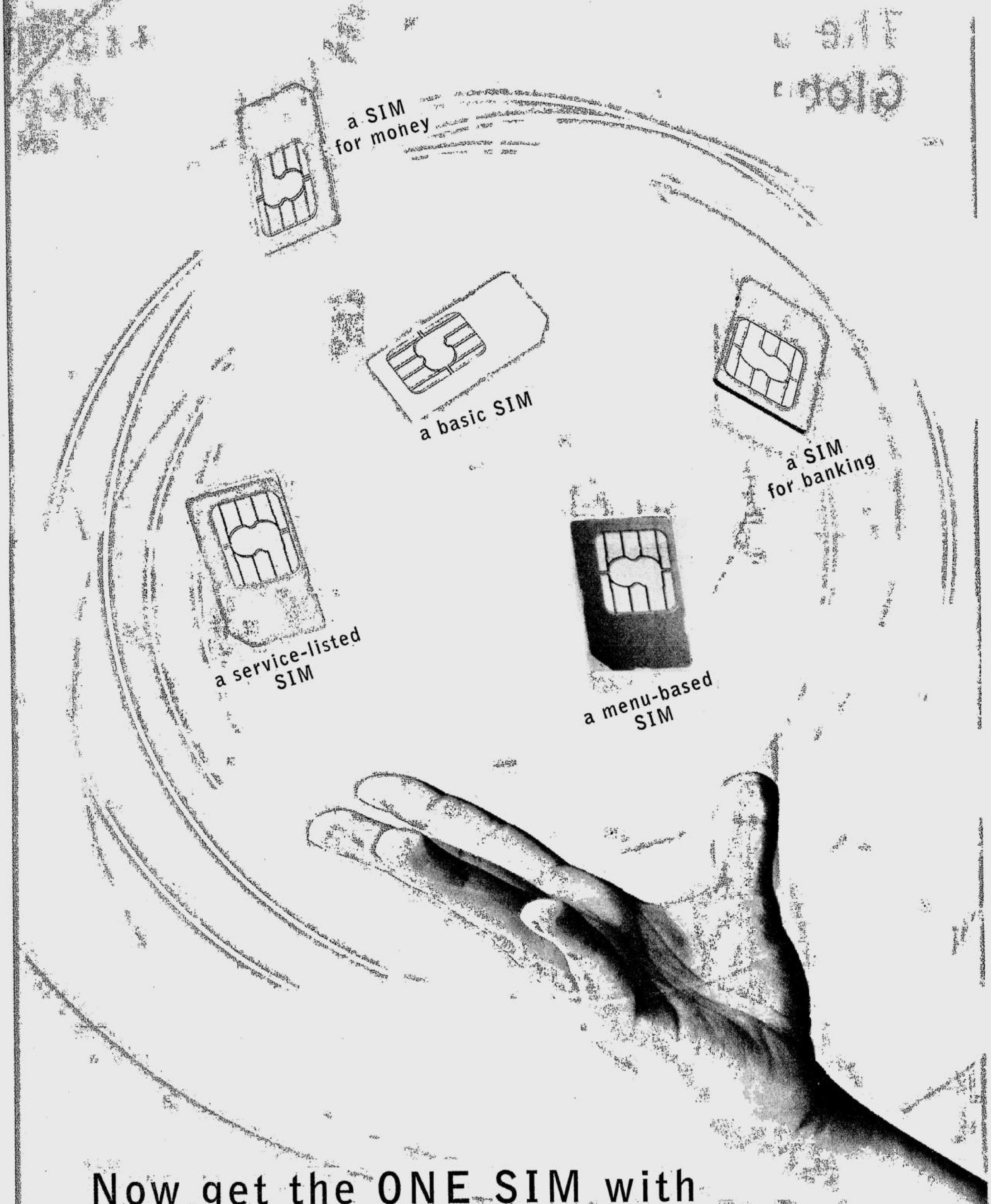
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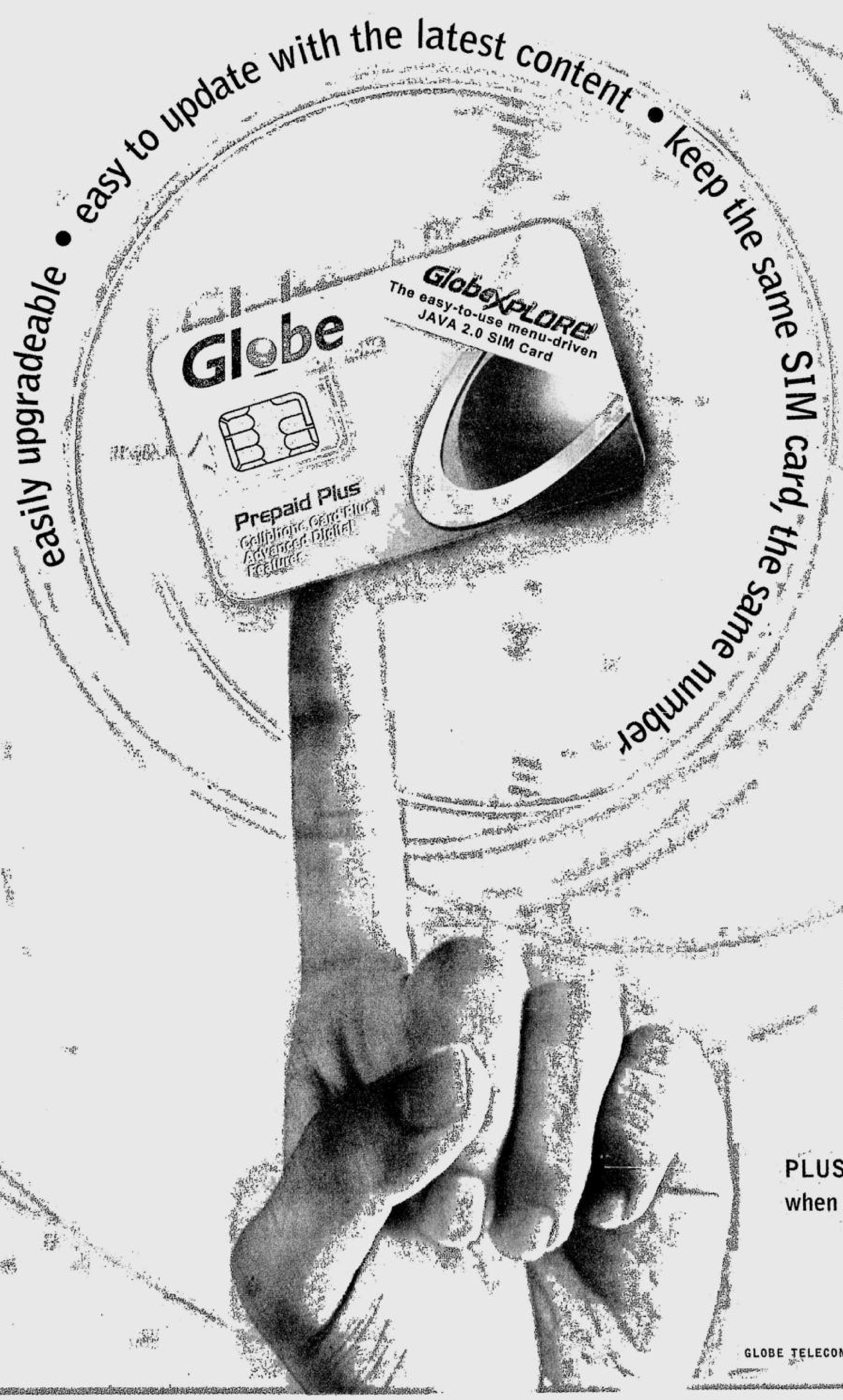
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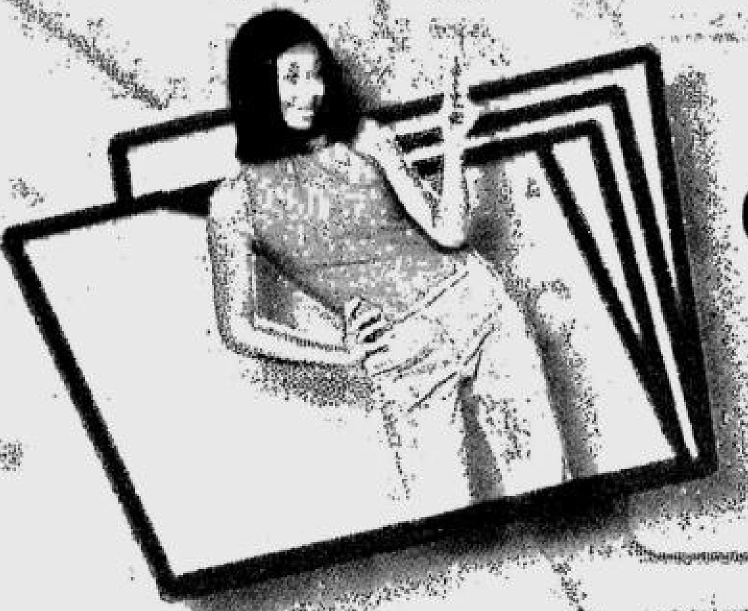

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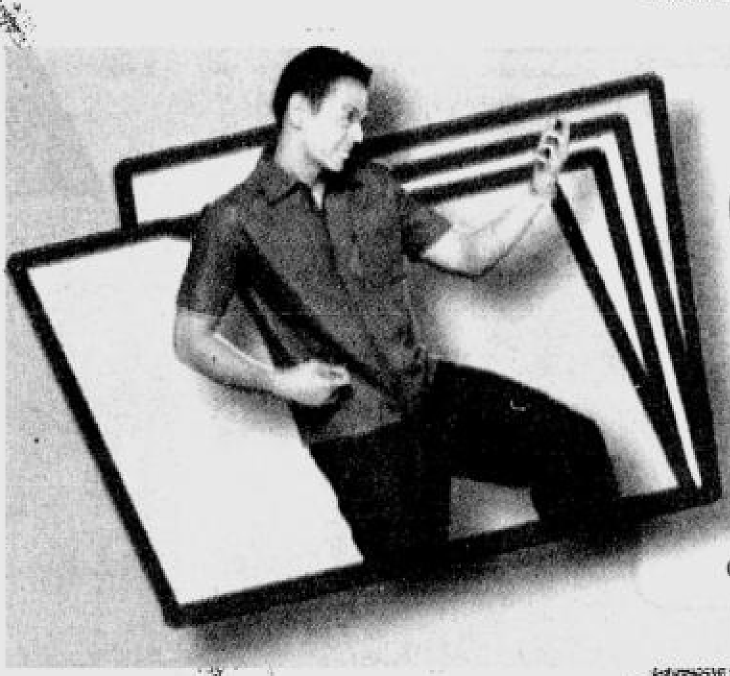

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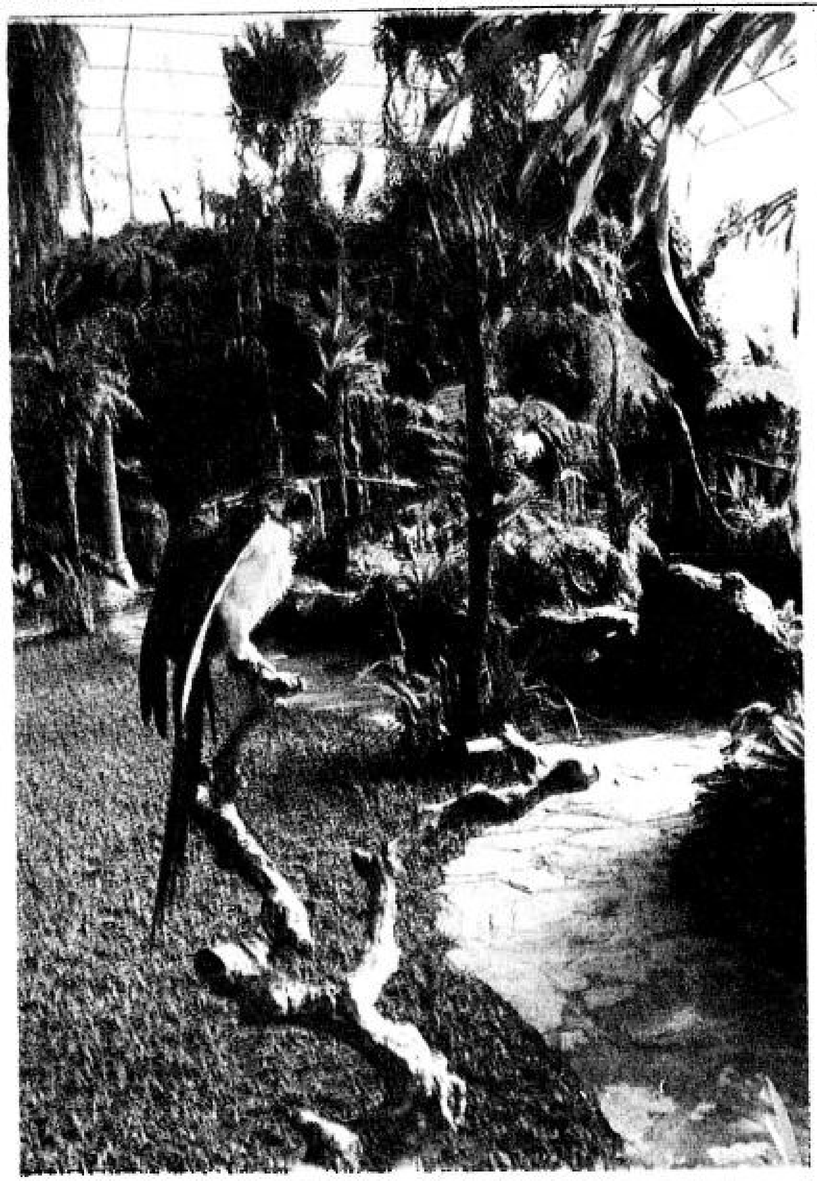

A CUCKATOO from South America is a perfect accessory in this lushness.

ONE of the first installations lead to the circa '50s residence.

NATURAL DRAPES. "Millionaires vine" with cascading hairlike tendrils

Fern garden for the city-jaded

(From page C8)

Tucked on Visayas Avenue is a garden that offers a sense of place, a sense of peace

who used to reside in Philadelphia, has decided to return to his roots, if only to recreate his own piece of paradise. The first order of the day: to undo the ravages of time and botanic neglect.

Much of the original structures like their family home remain very much the way they have been for the past 36 years. A few adjustments have to be made to accommodate the present endeavor. For example: the original '50s fountain must be relocated to a more appropriate site. Cutting it into six pie crust slices and moving it to the front lawn gave way to the lush tropical garden that altogether fills the 2,000 sq m of the present lawn.

And what a garden it has since become—a Ferndale that is 100 percent weatherproof! This is so because a towering overhang greenhouse roof has been constructed. This makes the garden a pleasure the whole year-round, rain or shine.

The excitement generated by garden experts like Evangeline Go and horticulturist Mike Evangelista lured me to this place. The installation of a carp pond tucked into the east corner is welcome. Also refreshing is the introduction of viewing decks where one can get a closer look at the maturing carp together with Philippine *medenillas.*

Some of the native floral species are hard put to bloom in their natural habitat. But here they find home and give off a rare and profuse display of "urbanized" blooms. It is an art to make them thrive. The vines and most of the flora are just less than 2 years old, but have remarkably extended their tendrils, leaving a curtain of sun-catching "hairs" that drape the pond beneath.

Farther into the hidden lawns are architectural implements that support the all-weather canopy. These are a lofty series of metal grids topped with a UV protective polyurethane film that allows sunlight to filter through. The fern collection is housed under this canopy. The tree ferns that thrive in highlands are definitely invigorated.

The bloom of the season is an orchid that looks prehistoric.

De Veyra believes the essence of any garden is the inner being. It is the culmination of influences and lifestyle. To be surrounded by peace and nature enhances existence. A garden is that nurturing environment. But don't forget the work that has gone to it.

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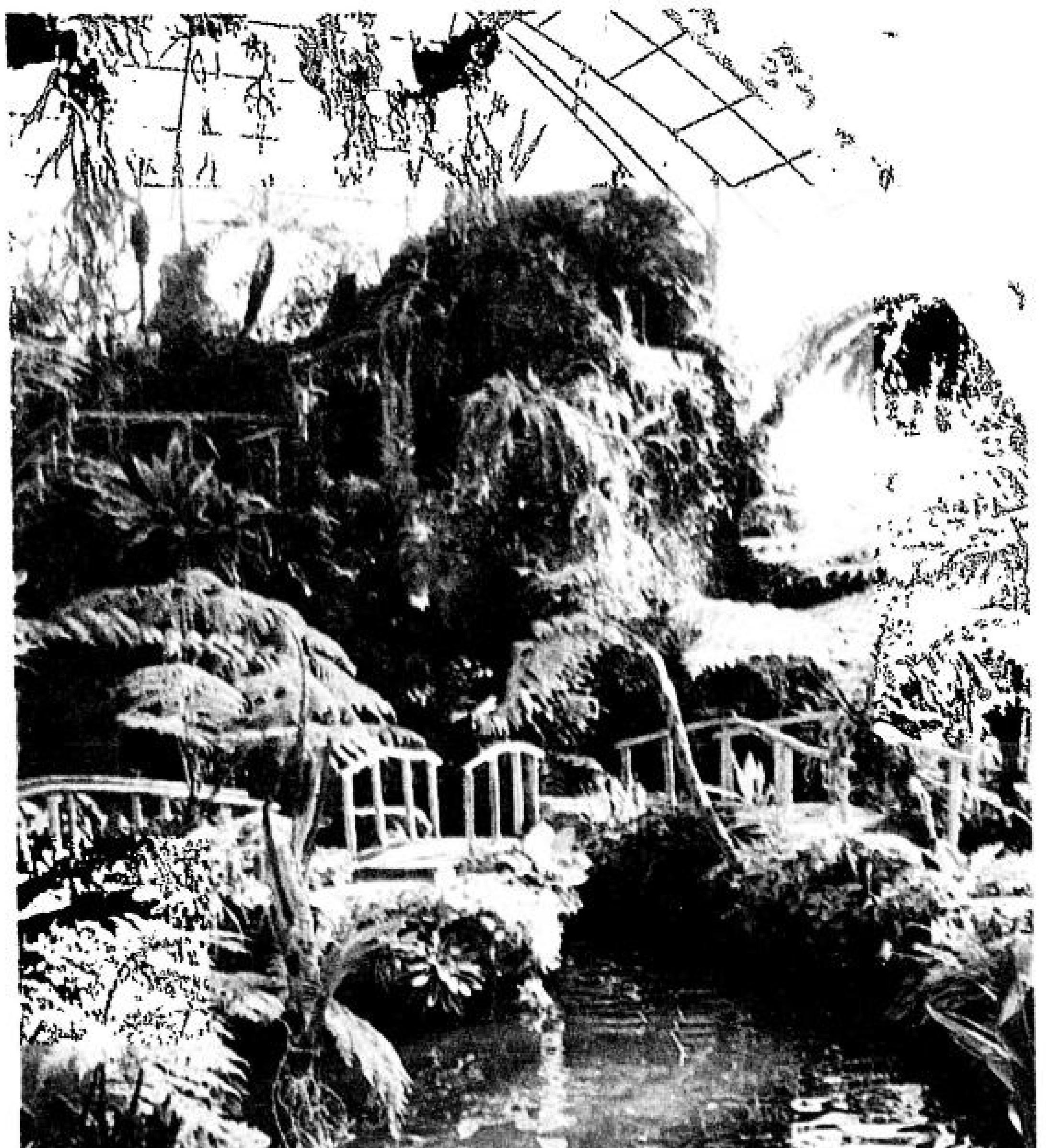
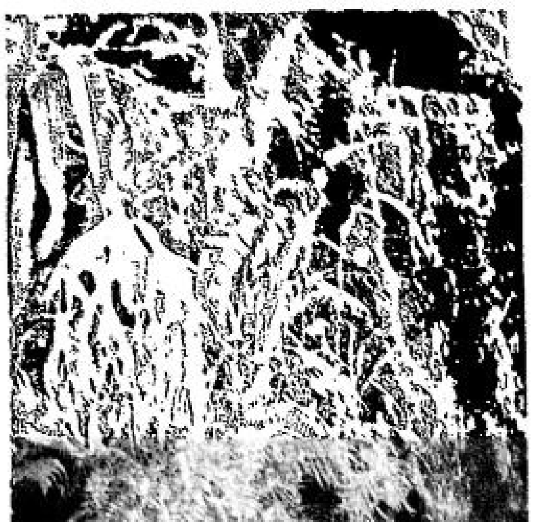
PHILIPPINE endemic orchids at their most showy inflorescence



WOODEN bridges give one a more intimate view of the carp pond beneath. The framework of the greenhouse canopy can be seen.

DELICATE fern fronds lace atop collector's bromeliads



FERNS and epiphytes accentuate this jungle in the city.

AT NIGHT, it's great for parties.

AN INNOVATION of the misting process

THE SOUND of natural water features sets the tone for the healthy anthuriums.

SELECTA ice-cream vendor

Flower power

(From page C2)

is the official name of the 9-year-old event, which is a joint project of the city government and the business sector, government and non-government organizations, schools, and volunteer groups.

We've seen Panagbenga evolve from a simple parade where barefoot flower people marched with their baskets of flowers or pulled flower-decked carts. Today, the name of the game is mechanized sights and sounds. We see new stunts every year, and needless to say, more and more fresh flowers are used instead of artificial ones. This year, we noted artificial flowers on only one float among the 34 participants.

"We don't cut ends when it comes to flower supply because we want to prove that Baguio is the undisputed flower capital of the Philippines," Efren Chatto of King Louie flower farm told us. "We must have used close to a million flowers, foliage, mosses, and twigs for the eight floats we decorated," Chatto estimated.

He said that about 50,000 everlasting flowers and chrysanthemums went into the making of the old galleon and the modern ship on the BPI float. "The theme of the BPI float is its 150th anniversary," he added.

King Louie arranged the floats of RCPI, Extelcom, Department of Agriculture, Baguio Center Mall, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes and Silver Swan.

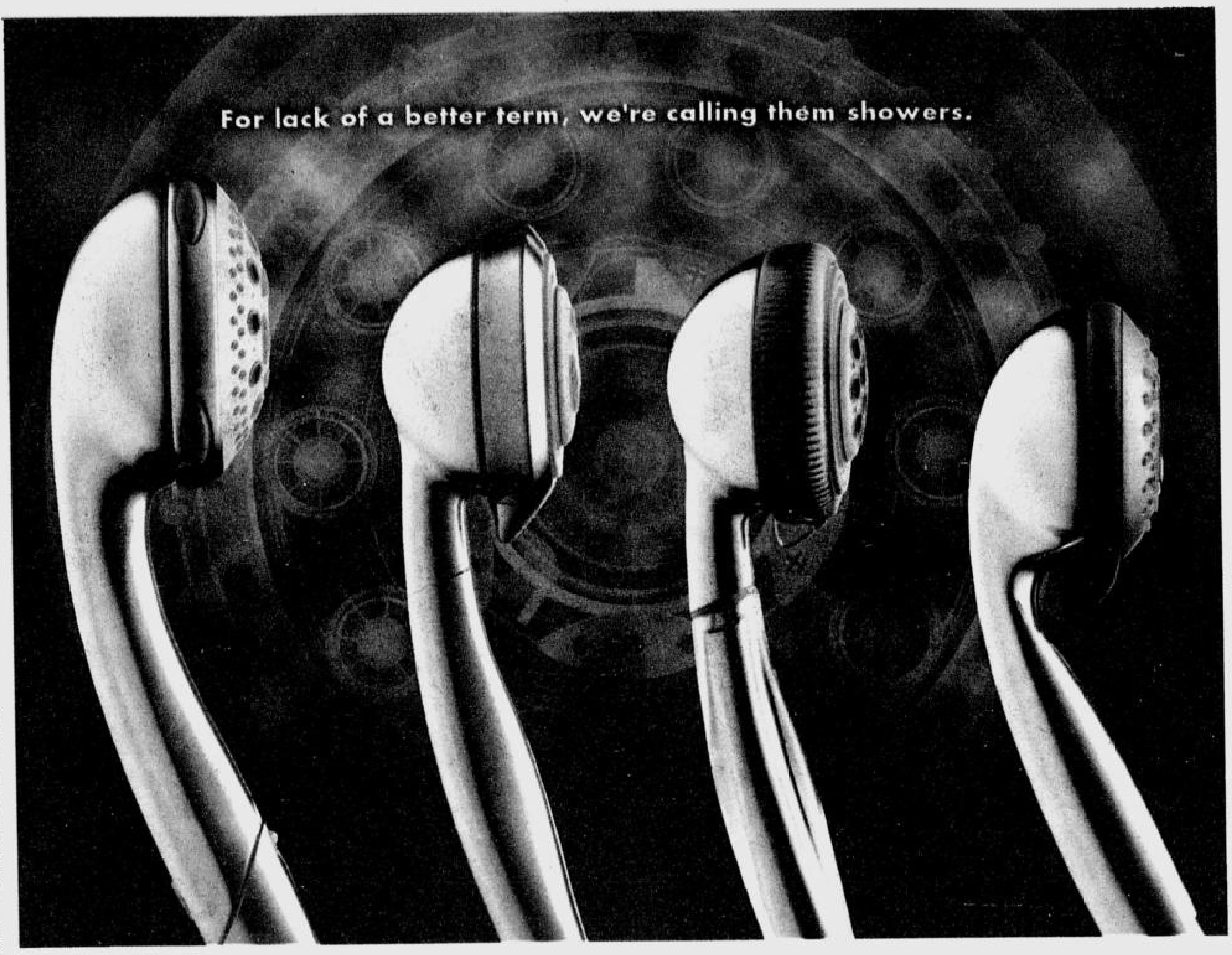
Swan didn't make it to the parade

Folks who watched the making of Silver Swan's float for two weeks were almost sure it would win the top award again like it did last year. It had a well-shaped body that was covered entirely with white mums. In addition to a moving head and a beak that carried a fish catch, the swan had flapping wings, as if in flight.

By a sad twist of fate, however, the Swan did not make it to the parade. The engine of the float just conked out at the very minute it was to join the moving floats on Session Road. All of two weeks' sleepless preparations and a hundred thousand blooms just wilted unseen by the roadside.

In our heart, the Silver Swan should at least win an award for "best effort."

By the way, interested folks can still catch the grand finale of Panagbenga tomorrow. Billed as "Session Road in Bloom," the main road will be closed to traffic to provide the setting for street café tripping and GenTxt partying. Also featured is a concert to mark the relaunching of The Dawn. Needless to say, Globe is sponsoring the grand finale of Panagbenga.



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Fern garden for the city-jaded

PHILIPPINE endemic medenillas abound and thrive

TEXT BY ADRIAN V. LIZARES
PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA

EVER hopeful, I know there are inspired gardens out there worth the discovery. Wending through Quezon City, my enthusiastic garden pals and I drive through what used to be rice paddies along Visayas Avenue.

Sprawling space was such a common fact of life in the not-so-distant past, and in the garden that we find, that same sense of space remains. Surprisingly, in this one tight spot in Quezon City is a garden that makes for unexpected delectation. It is a "secret" and unassuming property that is going through expansion and development.

Al de Veyra, a die-cast engineer and garden aficionado

FERN/ p.C6

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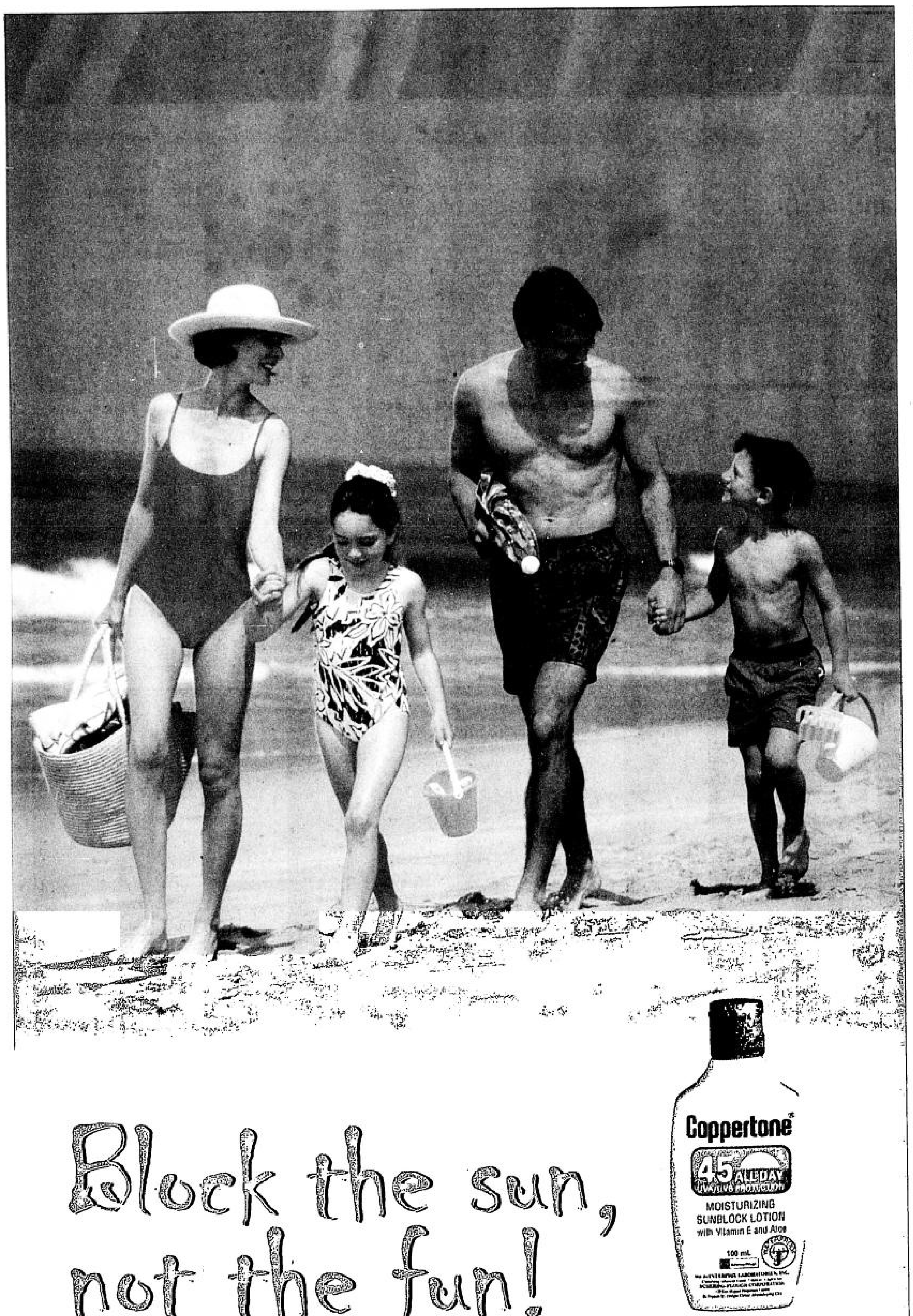
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Achievers

Gina Sumayod
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- Top Group Seller of the Year 2000
- Best Credit Record of the Year 2000

Keith Jayson Hidalgo
2nd Top Group Seller
- Owns 3 Dealer Outlets in Bangued, Abra • La Trinidad, Benguet • Agoo, La Union
- 2nd Top Group Seller - December 2000

Zijema Imperio
3rd Top Group Seller
- Owns 5 Dealer Outlets in Valenzuela, Metro Manila • Laoag, Badoc, Ilocos Norte • Vigan, Ilocos Sur • San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
- 5th Top Group Seller - December 2000

Ma. Nelia Estayani
4th Top Group Seller
- Owns 11 Dealer Outlets in Mabolo, Mandaue City, Basak Pardo, Banilad, Talisay City, Cebu City, Cebu • Surigao, Surigao • Tagum City, Davao • Sta. Rosa, Laguna • Tuguegarao, Cagayan Valley • San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
- 2nd Top Group Seller of the Year 2000
- Best Credit Record - February 2000

Leonora Famorca
5th Top Group Seller
- Owns 10 Dealer Outlets in Baliuag, Malolos, Bulacan • Candelaria, Sariyaya, Quezon • Calamba, Laguna • Nasugbu, Balayan, Tagaytay City, Batangas • Calapan City, Mindoro Oriental
- 2nd Top Group Seller - July 2000
- 4th Top Group Seller - November 2000

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Around the world in a table setting

(Story on D6)

MARITHÉ FRANÇOIS GIRBAUD
inside

humanature #4

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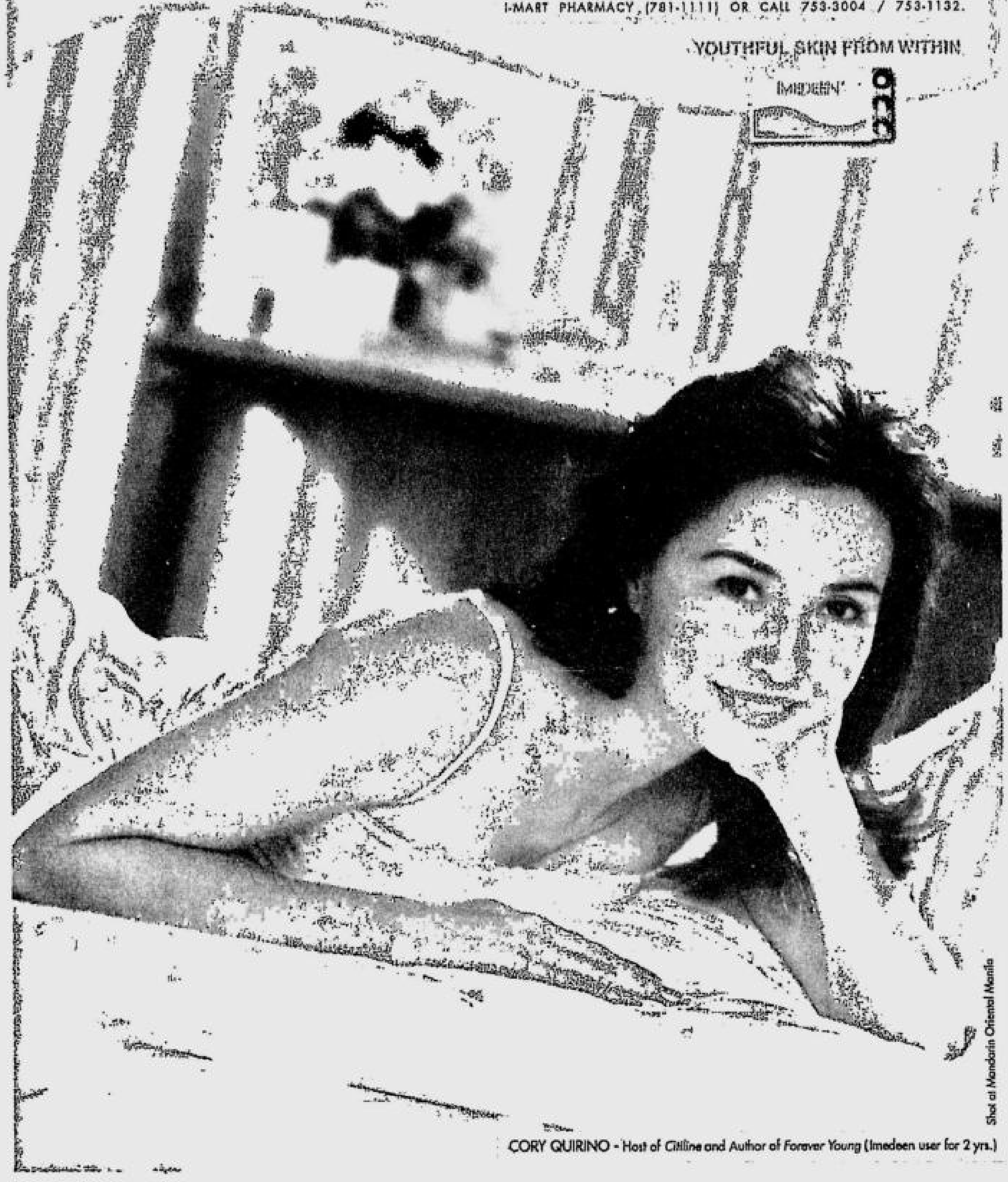
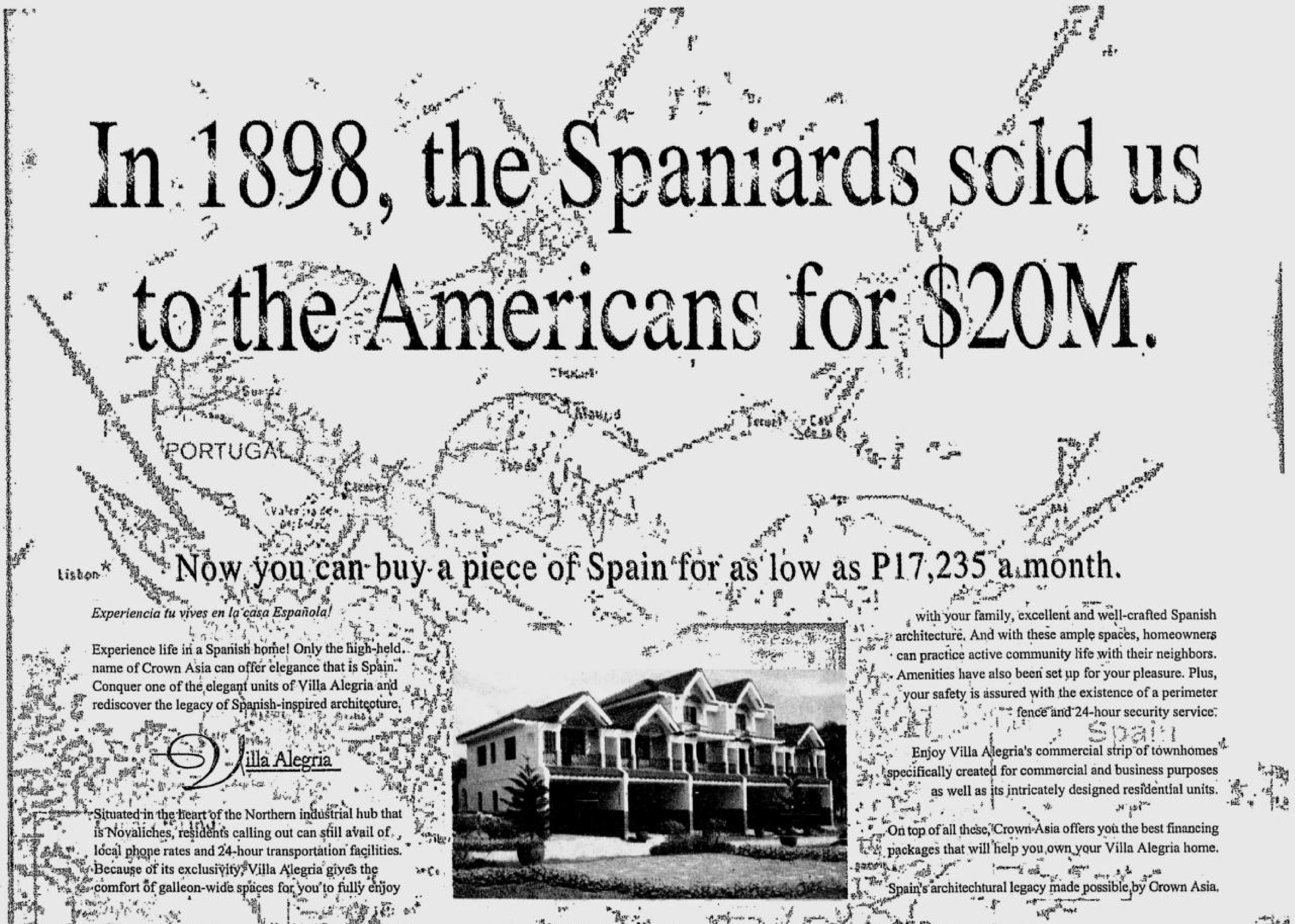

Shot at Mandarin Oriental Manila

CORY QUIRINO - Host of *Citiline* and Author of *Forever Young* (Imedeen user for 2 yrs.)



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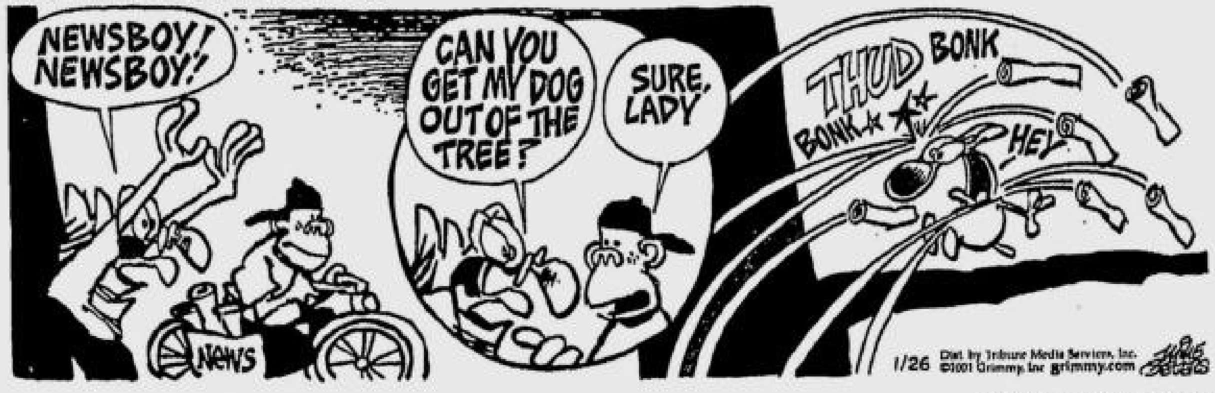
Crown Asia

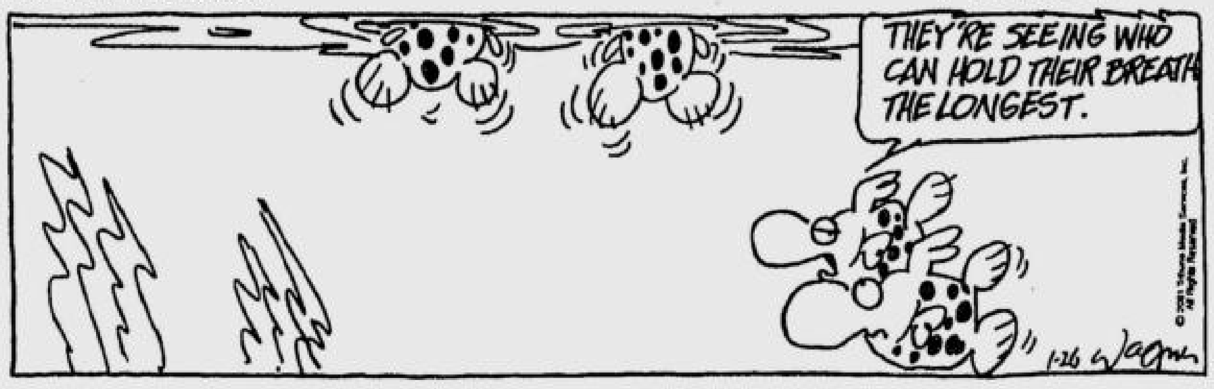
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


NEWSBOY! NEWSBOY!
NEWS
CAN YOU GET MY DOG OUT OF THE TREE?
SURE, LADY
THUD
BONK
BONK
HEY
1/26 Dist. by Tribune Media Services, Inc. ©2001 Grimmy, Inc grimmy.com

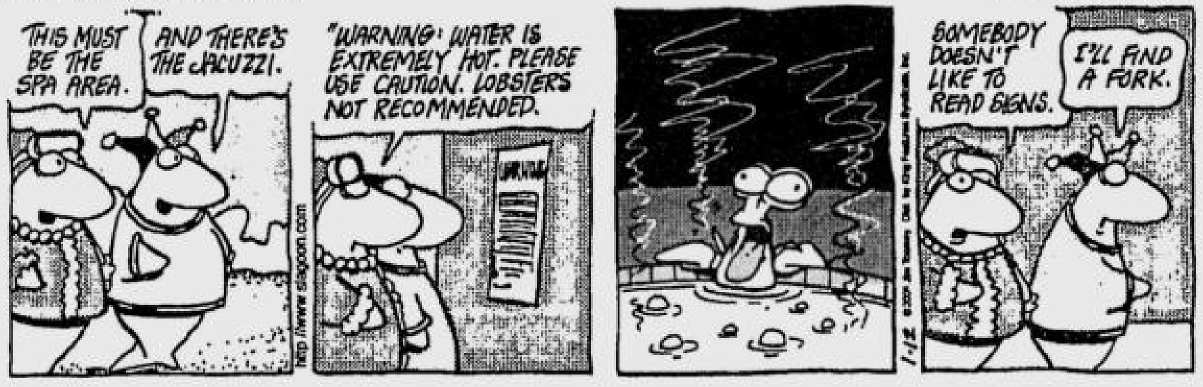
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


THEY'RE SEEING WHO CAN HOLD THEIR BREATH THE LONGEST.
1-26 Wagner

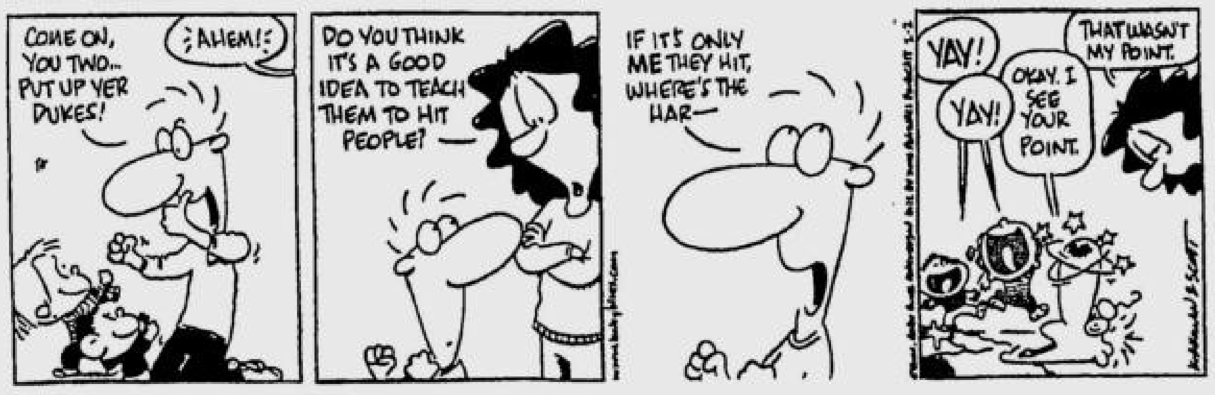
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


THIS MUST BE THE SPA AREA.
AND THERE'S THE JACUZZI.
"WARNING: WATER IS EXTREMELY HOT. PLEASE USE CAUTION. LOBSTERS NOT RECOMMENDED.
SOMEBODY DOESN'T LIKE TO READ SIGNS.
I'LL FIND A FORK.
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


COME ON, YOU TWO... PUT UP YER DUKES!
AHEM!
DO YOU THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO TEACH THEM TO HIT PEOPLE?
IF IT'S ONLY ME THEY HIT, WHERE'S THE HAR—
YAY!
YAY!
OKAY, I SEE YOUR POINT.
THAT WASN'T MY POINT.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Peter Fonda, Johnny Winter, Majel Barrett, Marc Price, Patricia Richardson, Bobby Bonilla

Happy Birthday: It's time to stop living in the past and for other people. You're the only one who can turn your life around, and it's time you did so. Start living life to the fullest. Rid yourself of the people who are dragging you down and holding you back. Find new ways to excel and do the things you enjoy most. Your numbers: 12, 17, 20, 35, 42, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You can make financial gains through conservative investments. Deal with banks, government agencies or corporations that can help you further your interests.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A romantic infatuation from your past may surface if you frequent places that you both used to go. You can enhance your reputation by making contributions to worthwhile causes.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will overreact to personal problems. Don't let your emotional upset interfere with your professional objectives. A fellow worker has a vested interest in you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Friends and relatives will appreciate your sensitive nature. You need to put some time and effort into pampering yourself. Make those improvements you've been contemplating.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take care of any persisting minor ailments. Don't hesitate to formulate or sign a legal document or contract. Older relatives may be a bit of a burden, but help them if you can.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): This should be an active day for you and your lover. Make plans to spend the whole day together. You need time to get to know each other all over again.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Business will be favorable for meeting new and exciting partners. Your unique, creative approach to your job will win you points and a possible advancement.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Be prepared to meet new people. You need to become a bit more free-spirited and willing to interact with others. Your creative talents are surfacing, and you must be sure to take advantage of them.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Real estate deals look good. Changes to your living arrangements or quarters will be positive. Matters relating to how you make your living will fluctuate.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You need to interact a little more. If you are willing to open up to those you encounter, relationships will follow. Pleasure trips will be more tantalizing than you imagined.

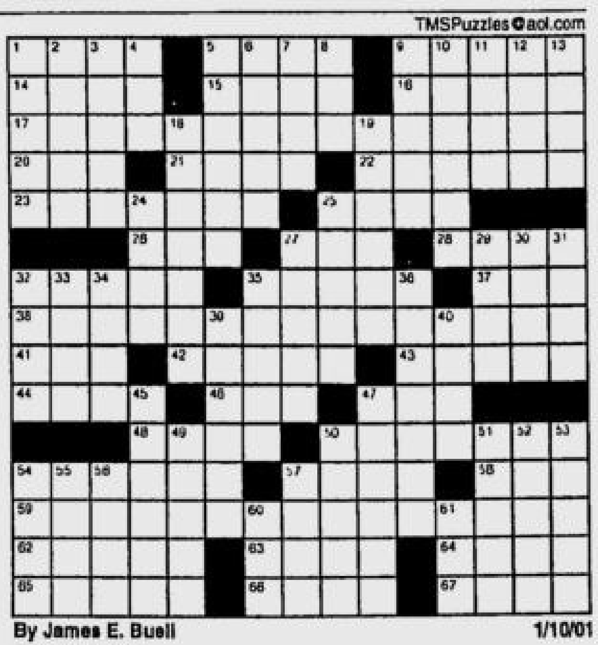
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take care of those personal matters that have been eating away at you. Look out for yourself. You've been taken advantage of in the past, and it's time to look out for No. 1.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A romantic encounter will develop through group activity. Don't hesitate to take a position of leadership. Your genuine warmth and compassion will win hearts.

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, creative and always looking for something to do. You have lots of energy and are always willing to try something new. You are bright, dedicated and know how to have fun.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By James E. Buell
Edgewater, FL

1/10/01

ACROSS
1 Flammer's caper
5 Polluted haze
9 Pass along
14 Flatfoot's lack?
15 Simplicity
16 Banishment
17 Burroughs' hero
20 Actress Plumb
21 Novel thought
22 Clunky cars
23 Lay waste to
25 Beatles movie
26 Possess
27 Unsettle
28 CD alternative
32 "Carmen" or "Aida"
35 Classifies
37 Long fluffy scarf
38 Segar's sea dog
41 Golf gadget
42 Examines hastily
43 Consumers
44 Dance move
46 Howdies
47 Egyptian cobra
48 PC mouse target
50 Tie-breaking game
54 Geronimo's tribe
57 Strike heavily
58 Maglie or Mineo
59 Ketcham's imp
62 Levi's material
63 Speckled steed
64 Squeezes (out)
65 Empty area
66 Legendary Himalayan sight
67 Laundry

DOWN
1 Replete
2 Hunger for
3 Parcels of suburbia
4 Frequency meas.
5 Forward
6 Chummy
7 Employee protection agcy.
8 Turn to the right!
9 Fight off
10 Free from an obligation
11 Ritzy ride
12 "Catch-22" star Arkin
13 Hankerings
18 Flight paths
19 Warns
24 Ripped
25 Jackrabbits
27 Glenn and Lennon
29 Ready and willing partner?
30 Destitute
31 Corn units
32 Chooses
33 Versifier
34 Fencing tool
35 Wood dye
36 Frankfurter's cousin
39 Returned calls?
40 Cosby/Culp TV series
45 Spread on the grass?
47 Degree holders
49 Ring like a bell
50 Skirt fold
51 Honshu port
52 Confronts
53 Body tissue
54 States further
55 Look furtively
56 "Thinking Out Loud" writer Quindlen
57 MacNelly comic strip
60 Give it a go
61 Fresh from the factory

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

D	A	R	T	■	E	C	L	A	T	■	T	A	C	O
O	D	O	R	■	M	O	I	R	E	■	S	N	A	G
R	E	B	A	■	S	A	M	U	E	L	H	I	L	L
S	N	E	V	A	■	L	O	B	■	A	I	S	L	E
■	■	■	R	E	V	S	■	A	D	D	R	E	S	S
P	O	T	L	A	T	C	H	■	E	S	T	■	■	■
A	R	C	■	S	A	R	O	N	G	■	S	T	A	R
R	C	A	■	T	R	E	M	O	R	S	■	H	O	E
D	A	T	E	■	K	E	E	N	A	N	■	O	N	E
■	■	■	M	O	E	■	R	E	D	E	E	M	E	D
M	A	C	A	B	R	E	■	E	L	L	A	■	■	■
O	R	O	N	O	■	N	A	B	■	L	O	S	E	S
D	O	N	A	L	D	J	U	A	N	■	I	B	L	E
E	M	I	T	■	A	O	R	T	A	■	S	O	S	A
L	A	C	E	■	W	Y	A	T	T	■	E	Y	E	S

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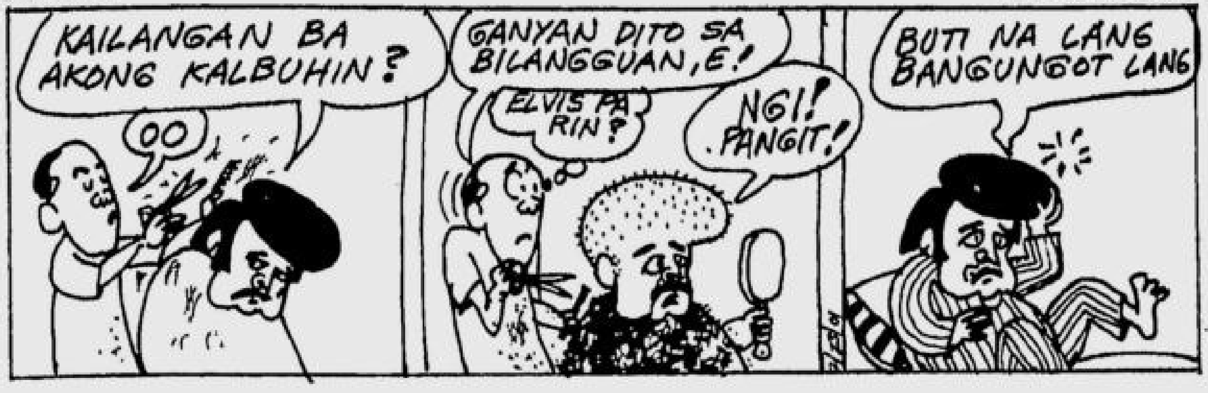
1/10/01

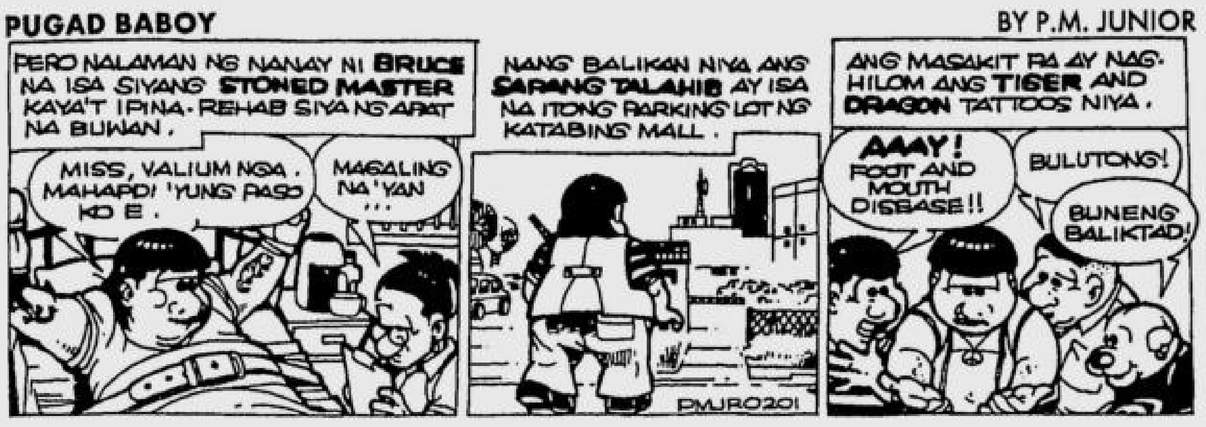
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


KAILANGAN BA AKONG KALBUHIN?
OO
GANYAN DITO SA BILANGGUAN, E!
ELVIS PA RIN?
NGI! PANGIT!
BUTI NA LANG BANGUNGOT LANG

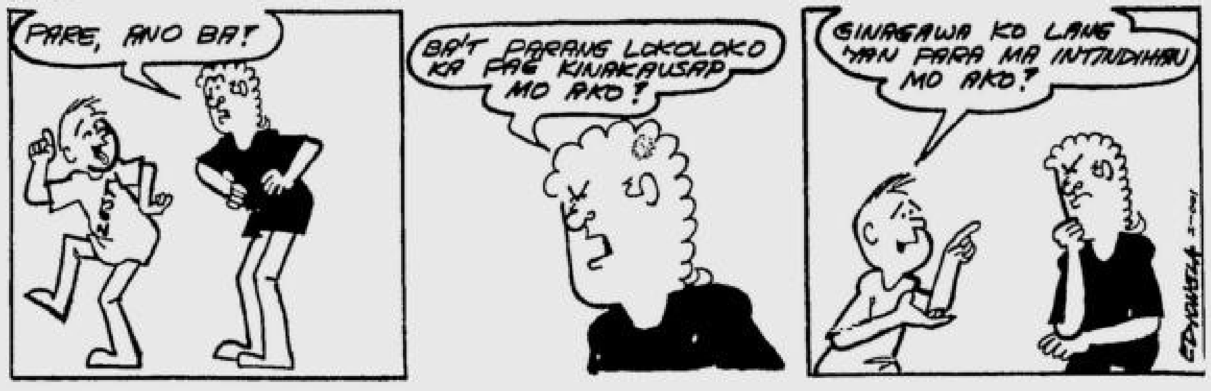
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


PERO NALAMAN NG NANAY NI BRUCE NA ISA SIYANG STONED MASTER KAYA'T IPINA-REHAB SIYA NG APAT NA BUWAN.
MISS, VALIUM NGA. MAHAPDI 'YUNG PASO KO E.
MAGALING NA 'YAN ...
NANG BALIKAN NIYA ANG SARANG TALAHIB AY ISA NA ITONG PARKING LOT NG KATABING MALL.
PMJR0201
ANG MASAKIT PA AY NAGHILOM ANG TIGER AND DRAGON TATTOOS NIYA.
AAAY! FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE!!
BULUTONG!
BUNENG BALIKTAD!

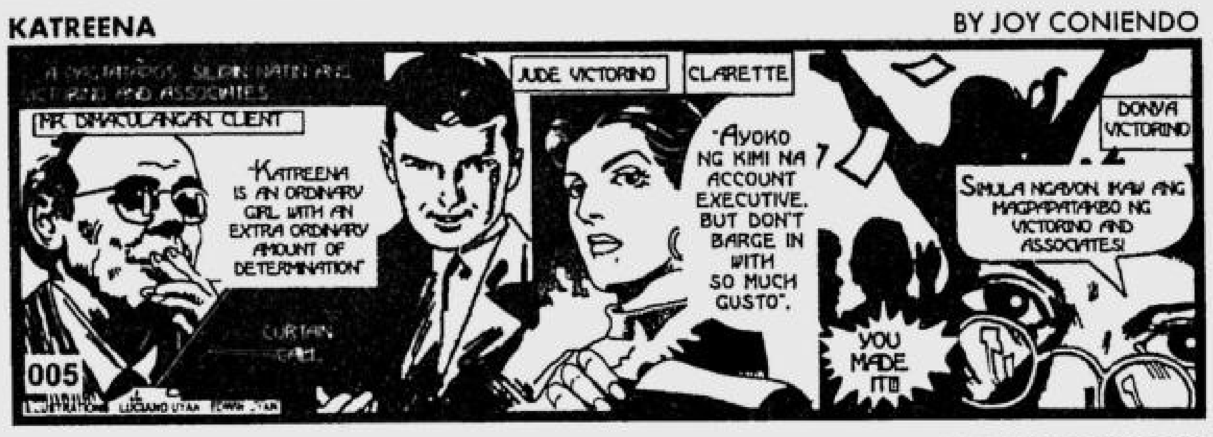
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


PARE, ANO BA?
BA'T PARANG LOKOLOKO KA PAG KINAKAUSAP MO AKO?
GINAGAWA KO LANG YAN PARA MA INTINDIHAN MO AKO?
EDYONELA

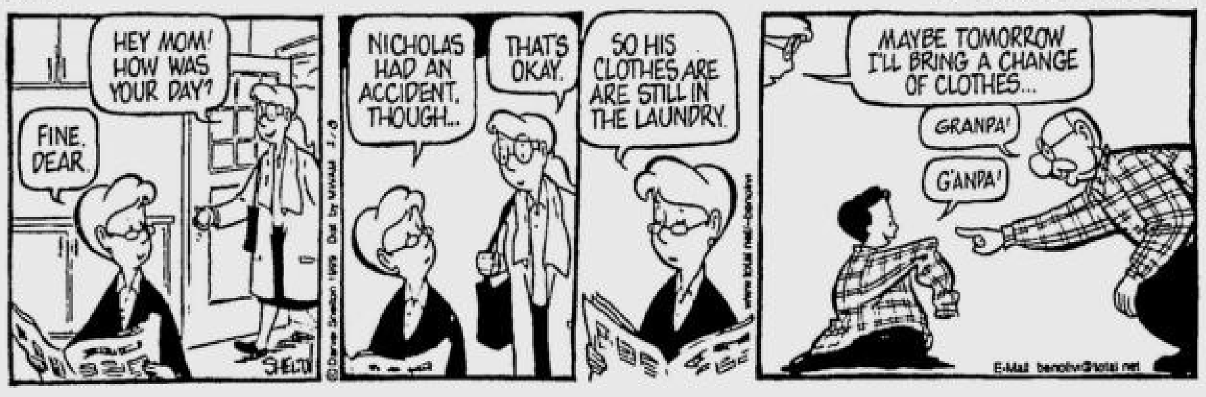
KATREENA

BY JOY CONIENDO


MR. DIMACULANGAN, CLIENT
"KATREENA IS AN ORDINARY GIRL WITH AN EXTRA ORDINARY AMOUNT OF DETERMINATION"
CURTAIN CALL
005
JUDE VICTORINO
CLARETTE
"AYOKO NG KIMI NA ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE. BUT DON'T BARGE IN WITH SO MUCH GUSTO".
DONYA VICTORINO
SIMULA NGAYON IKAW ANG MAGPAPATAKBO NG VICTORINO AND ASSOCIATES!
YOU MADE IT!!

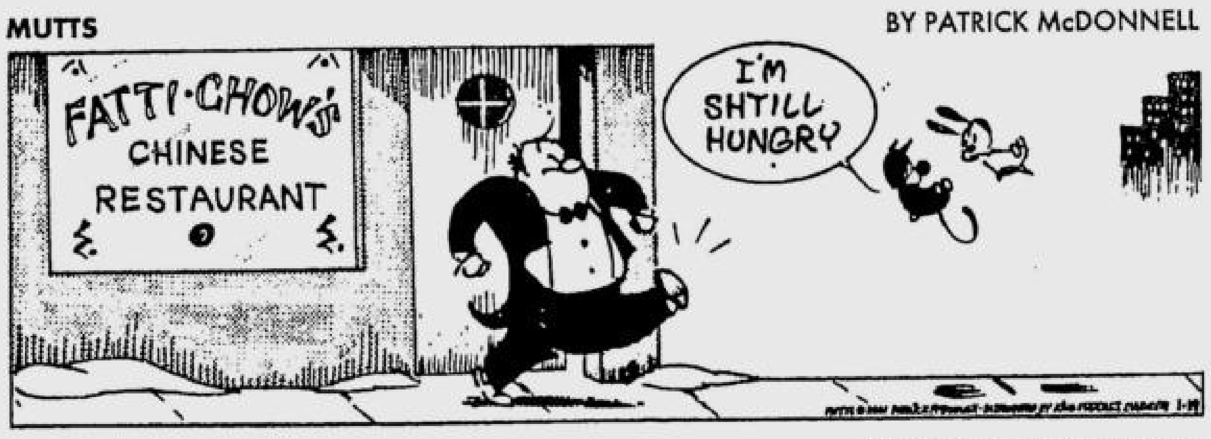
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


HEY MOM! HOW WAS YOUR DAY?
FINE, DEAR.
NICHOLAS HAD AN ACCIDENT, THOUGH...
THAT'S OKAY.
SO HIS CLOTHES ARE ARE STILL IN THE LAUNDRY.
MAYBE TOMORROW I'LL BRING A CHANGE OF CLOTHES...
GRANPA!
G'ANPA!
SHELTON

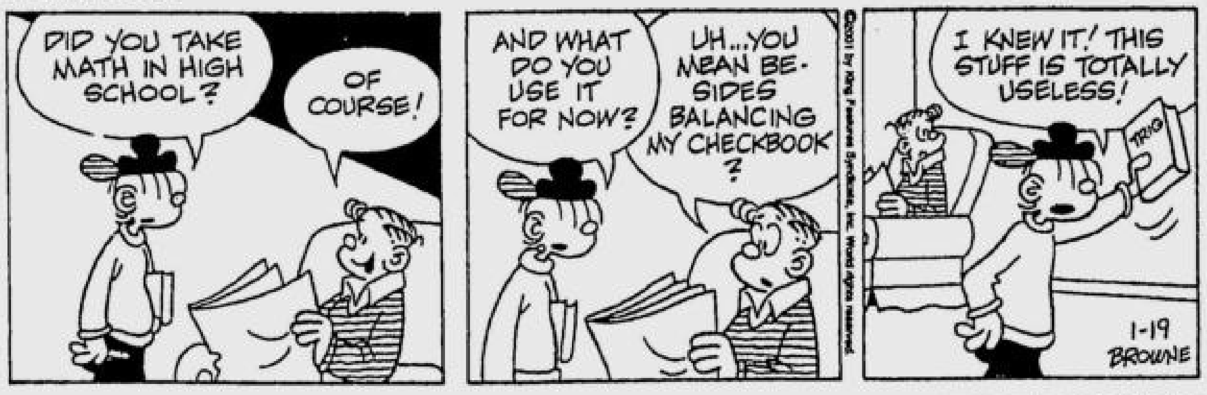
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


FATTI-CHOW'S CHINESE RESTAURANT
I'M SHTILL HUNGRY

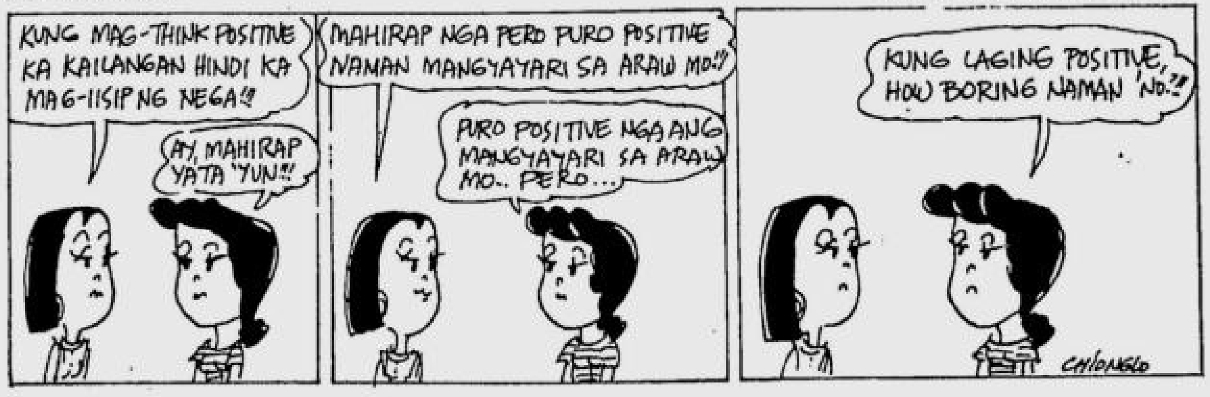
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


DID YOU TAKE MATH IN HIGH SCHOOL?
OF COURSE!
AND WHAT DO YOU USE IT FOR NOW?
UH...YOU MEAN BESIDES BALANCING MY CHECKBOOK?
I KNEW IT! THIS STUFF IS TOTALLY USELESS!
TRIG
1-19 BROWNE

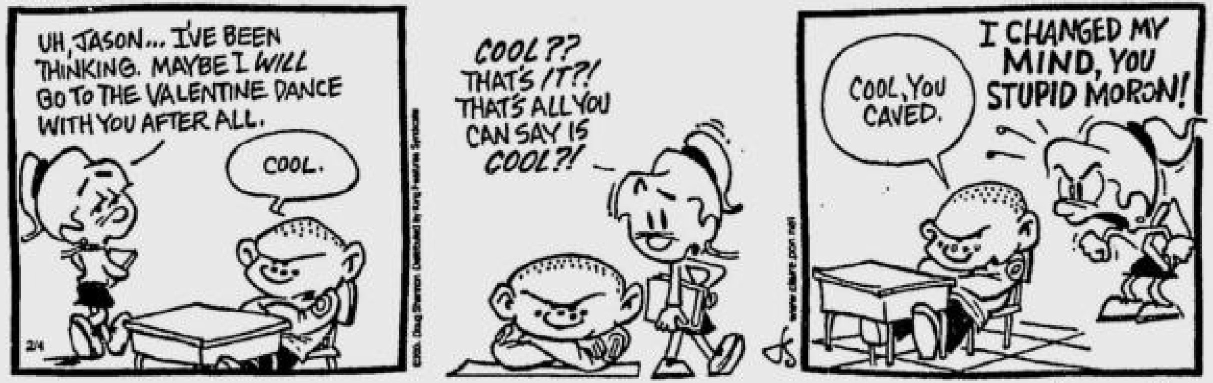
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


KUNG MAG-THINK POSITIVE KA KAILANGAN HINDI KA MAG-IISIP NG NEGA!!
AY, MAHIRAP YATA 'YUN!!
MAHIRAP NGA PERO PURO POSITIVE NAMAN MANGYAYARI SA ARAW MO!!
PURO POSITIVE NGA ANG MANGYAYARI SA ARAW MO.. PERO...
KUNG LAGING POSITIVE, HOW BORING NAMAN 'NO?!
CHIONGLO

CLAIRE

BY DOUG SHANNON


UH, JASON... I'VE BEEN THINKING. MAYBE I WILL GO TO THE VALENTINE DANCE WITH YOU AFTER ALL.
COOL.
COOL?? THAT'S IT?! THAT'S ALL YOU CAN SAY IS COOL?!
COOL, YOU CAVED.
I CHANGED MY MIND, YOU STUPID MORON!

Paint the town zed.

Zed, the leading global mobile portal, serves up a zesty bar tour that'll add a lot of zing to your night life. Catch it from February 23 to March 10, 2001 or go green with envy.

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BE THERE AS WE PAINT THE TOWN ZED AT THE FOLLOWING BARS THIS WEEKEND.

Feb. 23 (Friday)	
Libis	Twilo Pier One Cactus
Intramuros	Aposento Mas y Mas
Feb. 24 (Saturday)	
Ortigas	Fluid Side Bar Café 8th Day
Katipunan	Katips The Flood Live at the Ridge

THERE'S A LOT TO WATCH OUT FOR! YOU COULD EVEN GO HOME WITH AN ARMLOAD OF PRIZES!

Join our Matchmaking Contest to find your partner for the night. You just might win a pair of Smart zed cell phones.

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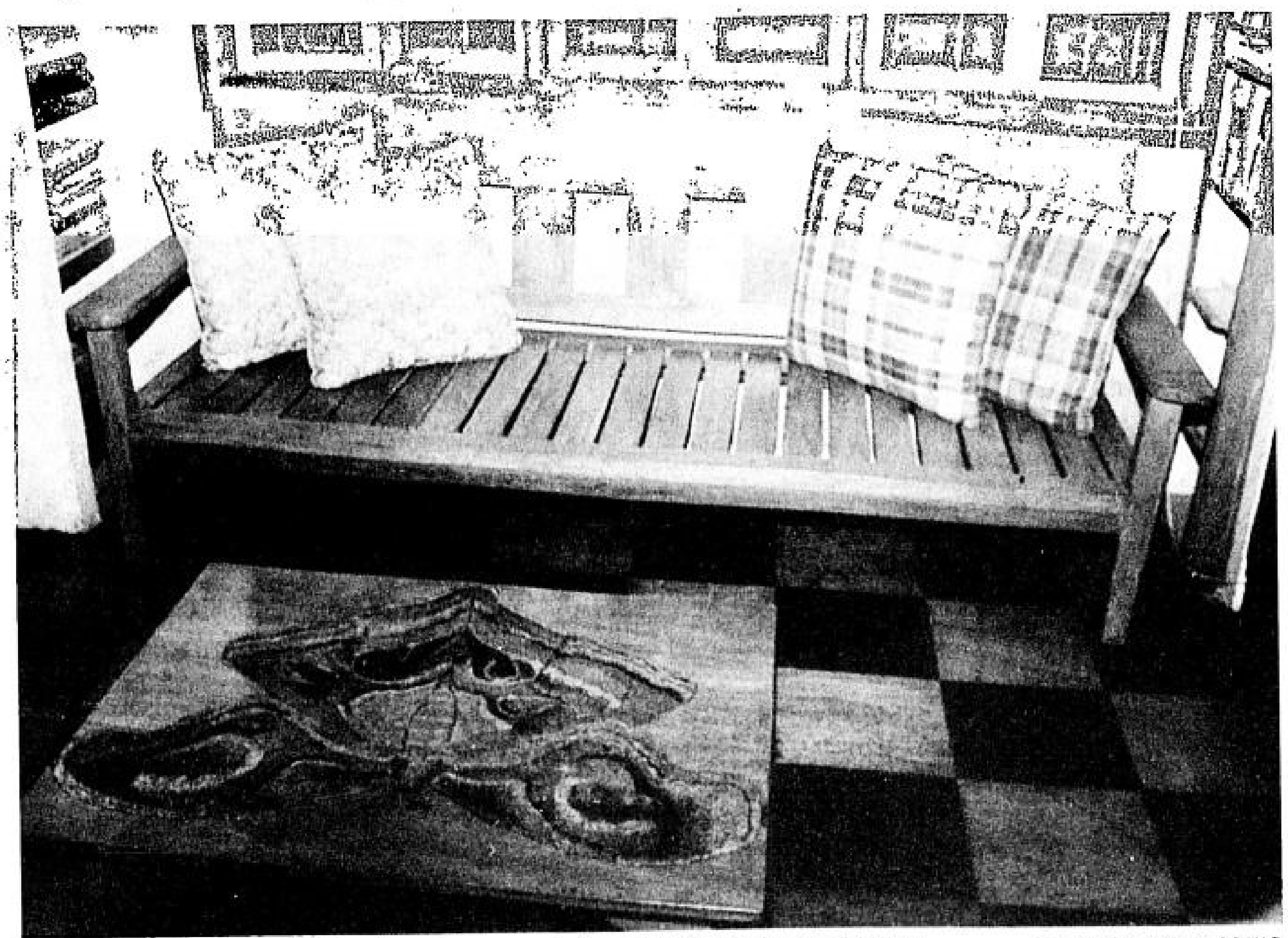
Get Buzzed with shots of Agwa Guarana Spirit Drink as you trip to zed party tunes. Oh, did we mention that they're free?

Throwaway things find new life in the home

BY CONSTANTINO C. TEJERO



THESE discarded or found objects have been recycled to create lasting pieces of beauty.

PHOTOS BY ROGER MARGALLO

THE ART Noveau lamp given a new material

FOR DECADES now, artists have been ransacking junk shops and trash cans and retrieving discarded objects to be incorporated into their works. Be it buttons, safety pins and expired credit cards in the fashion world, or pieces of machinery, cable wire and worn-out ballerina shoes in the art world. Think of Gabby Barredo and Eddie Baddeo.

The rise of Postmodernism, which superficially is a playful recycling of the old, the traditional and the classic, encourages this utilitarian (sometimes ghoulish) habit of artists. And soon we're witnessing the elevation of literal garbage into high art—a long, long way from the *objet trouvé* cultivated by the Dadaists and the Surrealists, or the ready-made advanced by Duchamp.

The house of Odette Alcantara in Blue Ridge, QC, has become a showcase for such discarded or found objects recycled to create compelling art pieces, furniture and home décor. A writer and environmentalist, Alcantara has had a few artist and artisan friends assemble or reassemble these things for her, until they take on a new life.

At first glance, the flooring in her sanctum looks like stone or heavy floorboards. As you tread on it and hear the dull thud of shoes, you realize it's actually square plywood boards dyed black and brown and nailed together to form a checkerboard pattern.

The door leading to one library (there are many in this house) has been glued with crushed eggshells, painted beige and dashed with blue.

Philippine baroque

That strange artwork on the pale-blue wall is composed of broken ceramic plates, the shards glued to form two thick undulating lines of blue, gray, old rose, green, ochre and tobacco.

In lieu of a Japanese screen, found objects such as wooden *palayok*, food tray, carabao figurine, bamboo tubes, newel, balusters, bed posts, have been bonded together to make a big sculptural piece that can be moved anywhere around the house to serve as a divider or, simply, a conversation piece. This is Philippine baroque at its more bizarre.

On the ceiling are swatches of multicolored fabric (violet, yellow, green, white, blue, gold, burnt sienna) sewn together around metal frames to form unusual-looking lampshades. The Art Nouveau stained-glass lampshade has been given a new material.

In an inner sala, tall and slim side table and chairs are scrap-iron tubes twisted to grotesque yet graceful shapes then woven with hemp ropes.

Those throw pillows nestling on a wooden settee are old clothing recycled for that country effect. And they look cuddly, too.

On top of a very low table is spread out a giant moth. It looks frightening, until you touch it and find it's actually fragments of eggshells glued like a mosaic and painted a naturalistic hue.

Fine specimens

In Alcantara's office are displayed more items created from recyclables, fine project specimens from Mother Earth Foundation (Artists for the Environment), of which she is a trustee.

There's a copper-colored shoulder bag of plastic strips woven to look like raffia basket weave. White-and-red fruit-juice (apple) foil packs have been transformed into a cheery handbag. White-and-yellow fruit-juice (mango) foil packs have been sewn together and voila! it's a fun place mat.

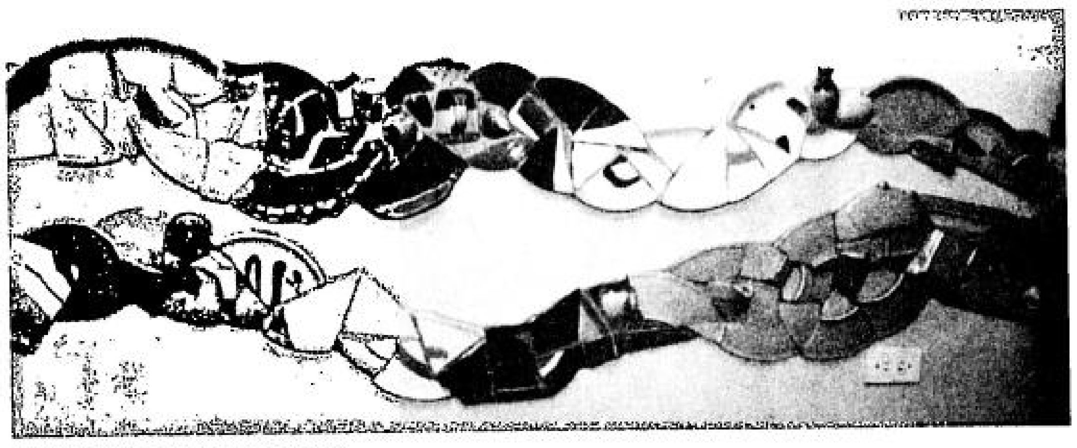
Used ball pens and broken pencils glued together and painted black and gold are now a sturdy pen well or pencil holder. It has a metallic sheen which belies its plastic and wooden origin.

A table centerpiece is a swanlike form made of hundreds of red-and-white pieces of plastic rolled into sticks and sewn together. In its midsection can be arranged small fruits, berries or nuts, or a small pot of ornamental plant.

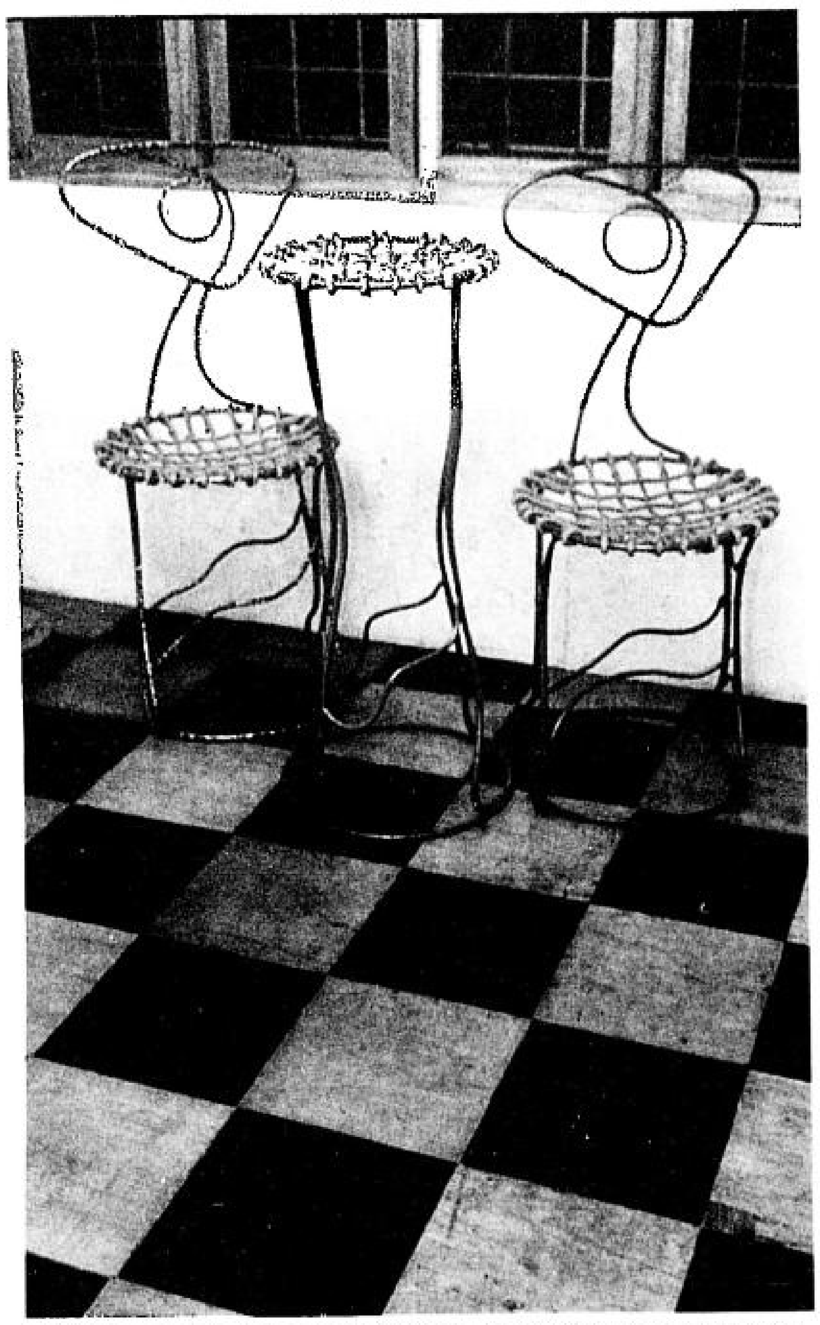
Alcantara is keeping these objects in her house not so much for aesthetic pleasure as for her desire to reduce the gargantuan garbage problem facing city folk now. A hardcore environmentalist, she can never be accused of not practicing in private what she's been preaching in public.

A Metro Manila Development Authority study estimates that about 80 percent of the metropolis' wastes can be recycled. Alcantara challenges every citizen to do with his/her household junk what she's been doing with her own.

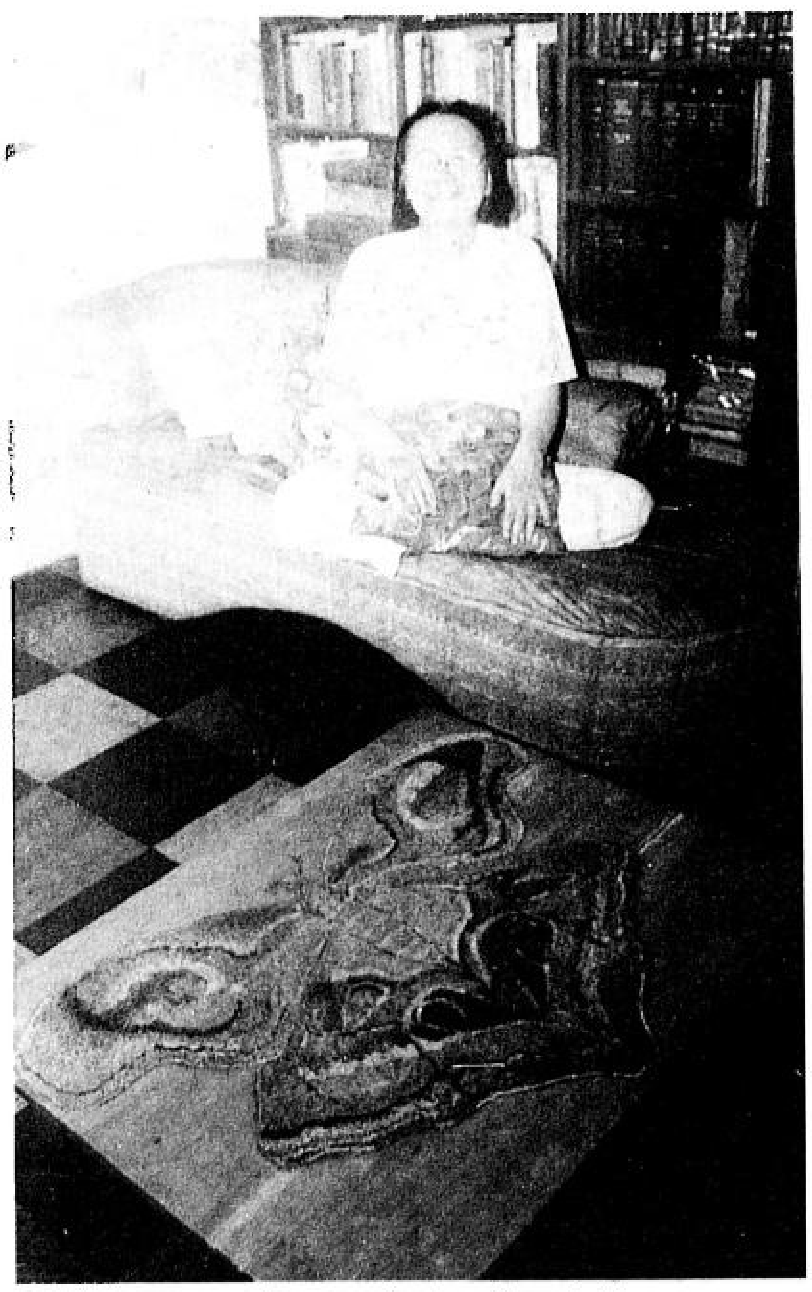
But then, obviously, for these things to be created or appreciated, it needs the temperament of an artist, which not everybody has. Otherwise they'd just look, well, trashy.



STRANGE artwork on the wall



SCRAP iron twisted into graceful shapes, plywood boards invested with a solid look



IN ODETTE Alcantara's sanctum is a trove of recycled treasure.

BINGO
bench/
Rustan's
Xpresslane
ROBINSONS
mercury drug
JOLLIBEE
Watch out for Starmall's 3-day grand open

Sight, sound and fury

Philips' SACD 1000 takes aural-visual technology to a new level

TO HEAR the drop of a pin amid a raucous rock concert is near to impossible.

But thanks to new sound technology by Philips, Europe's leader in consumer electronics, lovers of classical music can now hear even the sound of the violins hiding under the cacophony of cymbals and drums. Philips's latest product, the SACD 1000, promises to bring any classical performance to life.

With the world's first-ever multichannel Super Audio CD playback capability, the audio experience is a quantum leap in sound technology. The difference lies in the sophisticated six-channel sound digital feature.

Like home cinema systems, SACD 1000 offers five separate sound channels and a low-frequency channel for the subwoofer.

However, SACD 1000 does away with the highly compressed sounds of home cinema systems. Each SACD channel is recorded at four times the resolution of normal CD recording. The high-density layer of SACD contains a Direct Stream Digital (DSD) six-channel recording. Each of the six channels can be recorded separately with full 100 kHz and 120 dB (decibels) dynamic range within the audio band.

The result is a six-channel sound image with unparalleled resolution and transparency that a full 100-piece symphony can now breathe to life.

PHILIPS mini hi-fi system with integrated CD recorder

DVD feature

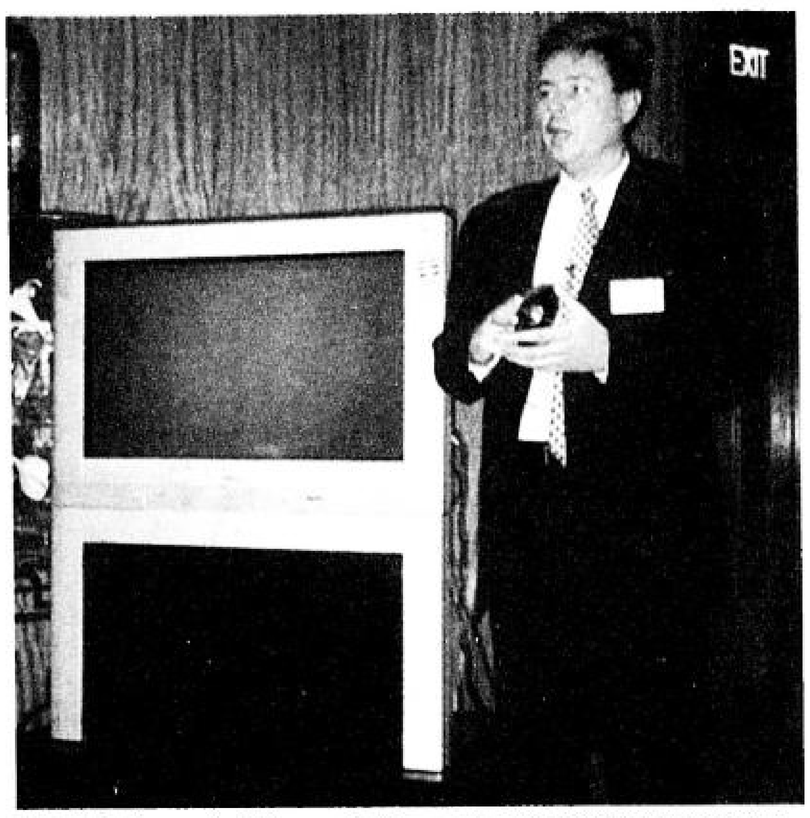
Audiences can even enjoy the combined power of high-fidelity sound and breathtaking video, with the SACD 1000's DVD functionality.

The DVD function offers excellent video quality that will simply amaze the senses. With 625 lines of high-resolution picture, viewers will be treated to a visually stunning experience. The product's high-storage capacity also provides in-movie features such as multilingual subtitles, multi-channel voice-overs, multi-angle viewing and others.

Apart from DVD video, it can also play VCD and CDDA, and is compatible with audio and video related formats, including DSD, PCM, MPEG2, AC3, DTS and supports CD-R and CD-RW playback as well.

"We are very excited by the sound quality offered by SACD. Everybody who hears the pure and realistic sound quality that SACD delivers, is captivated," Frank Pauli of Philips Disc Systems says. "Our SACD player will have six channel outputs and will include DVD video, which we believe will be a very attractive combination for everybody who likes to enjoy the best in sound and video."

PHILIPS dual-deck CD recorder


MARK Poldervaart, Philips marketing manager for digital A/V recording, shows to newsmen in Singapore the Super Audio CD playback capability.

Super Audio CD

But the product is at its best with the use of Super Audio CD. Super Audio CD, developed by Philips and Sony Corp., is the evolution of the CD format. It uses the latest DSD (Direct Stream Digital) technology to deliver superior sound reproduction quality, with the ability to render all the nuances of a live performance. This technology closely reproduces original analog waveforms, producing a clearer, more natural sound that captures the musical atmosphere and emotional impact of the source material with outstanding realism. Using a sampling frequency 64 times higher than that of CD, Super Audio CD offers an extremely pure and natural sound.

Compatibility is nevertheless a key factor for the success of Super Audio CD. Users can play all their existing CDs on their new Super Audio CD players. On the other hand, the SACD hybrid disc (two-layer disc) enables the consumer to play the discs on any existing CD player.

Feliciano, Trinidad to be honored by UP CMC alumni

THE UP College of Mass Communication Alumni Association (CMCAA) will hold a testimonial program for the mass media industry's contemporary heroes who have been faculty members or students of the College of Mass Communication (CMC). Dubbed "Parangal: Pagbabalik-tanaw at Paninimula," the program will be held on Feb. 27, 6 p.m. at the Balay Tsanselor (UP Chancellor's House), UP Diliman Campus on President C.P. Garcia Avenue.

GLORIA Feliciano

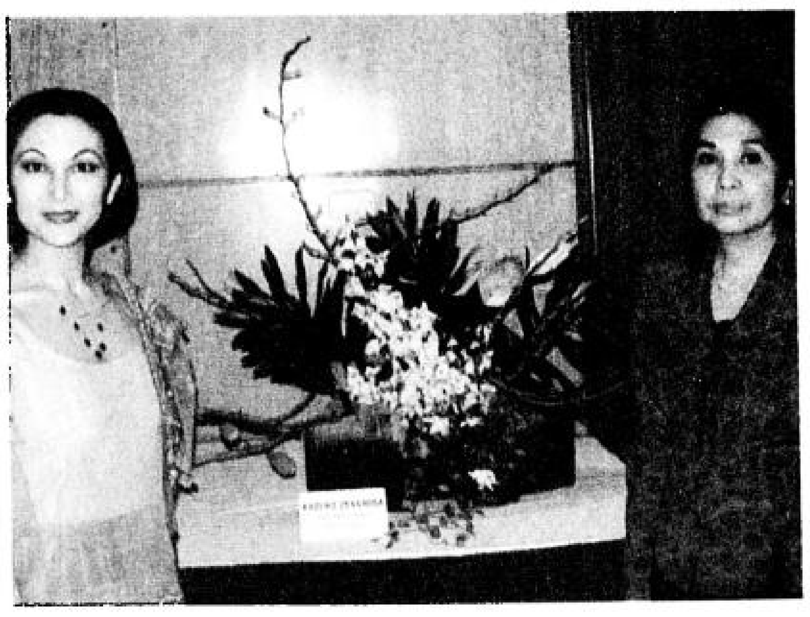
Leading the honorees are: founding CMC Dean Gloria D. Feliciano (posthumous), for her pioneering work in mass communication education that covered the last half-century; Prof. Francisco "Koko" Trinidad (posthumous), whose life and career covered the history of broadcasting in the country for which he has been dubbed the "Father of Philippine Broadcasting"; Prof. Armando J. Malay, renowned newspaperman, for journalism education, having been one of the first faculty members to teach journalism subjects at the UP; Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste, fearless broadcaster and one of the "Courageous Ten" senators during the impeachment trial of ousted President Joseph Estrada; acting Press Secretary Noel C. Cabrera, career journalist and advocate of an independent press; and the CMC Student Council of 2001, for leading in the mobilization of UP students during Edsa II.

FRANCISCO "Koko" Trinidad

According to CMCAA president Joy Buensalido, "The profession of mass communication has been made richer by the work and commitment of these outstanding men and women."

Before the tribute, the CMCAA will also hold the election of this year's trustees and officers, in accordance with the association's charter. Alumni are encouraged to be at the venue at 5 p.m. to participate in the elections.

Whoever you are, whatever you do...
You're the star of the new starmall
starmall
EDSA cor. Shaw
METROPOLIS star
South Super Hi-way, Alabang
ing event on March 2,3 & 4


CLUB president Kazuko Zenarosa (left) and overall show chair Nonette Hubilla

Visions of floral heaven and earth

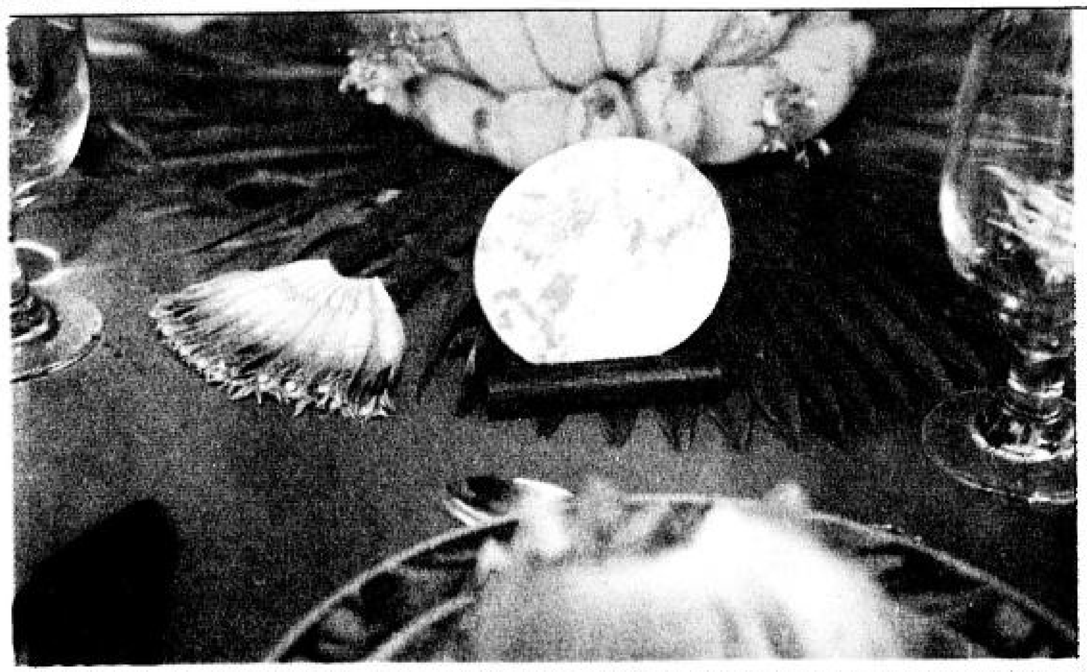
WITH THE THEME "Ikebana Visions 2001," the Ikebana International, Manila Chapter 108 will stage its 34th annual exhibit of various Ikebana styles under the Sogetsu, Ikenobo, Ohara and Ryusei-Ha Schools. This will be held March 1-4, 10 a.m.-7p.m., at the 2/F Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City.

Club president Kazuko Zenarosa said the exhibits will be free to the public, with lecture-demonstrations on the different styles ranging from basic, classical to modern or free styles.

The speakers are Hortense Sobrevinas and Serapion S. Metilla of the Ikenobo School, Rose Avancena and Joyce Kato of the Ohara School on March 2; Aurora Villanueva to be assisted by Virgie Pantaleon of the Ryusei-Ha School and Vangie Cheng to be assisted by Jane Chilip on March 3; Margot Perez and Emy Dimayuga of the Sogetsu School and Tita del Rosario and Liling Nuguid of the Ikenobo School on March 4. All lectures will start at 11:30 a.m.

Honorary advisor Myriam Ara, wife of the Japanese ambassador, Beth Day Romulo and representative of the Shangri-La Plaza Mall will formally open the exhibits on March 1, 4 p.m.

Nonette Hubilla, Myrna Hallare and Celia Lazaro are overall show chair and cochairs, respectively. The other show committees are handled by Missy Ignacio, Liling Nuguid and Joyce Kato, demonstrations; Jenny Ledonio and Mila Sumulong, hospitality and reception; Nonette Hubilla and China Go, physical arrangement; Margot Perez and Nely Chua, photography and recording; Virgie Pantaleon, Shirley Lee and Helen Espiritu, attendance and security; Kazuko Zenarosa, Rose Avancena and Aurora Villanueva, invitation; Fely Gupit, Serapion S. Metilla and Myrna Hallare, publicity and communication, and Vangie Cheng, Dory Bernabe, Delie Yap and Constance Gonzales, finance and ways and means. Parliamentarian is lawyer Pacita de los Reyes Philips.



UNLIKELY accent pieces include a place card made of *capiz* shell and set on a bamboo stand, fringes of a banana heart and a spread of *anahaw*.

Around the world in a table setting

DEEP-GREEN table napkins and tie-dyed chair covers bring out the gold in the tablecloth.

By Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Bobot Meru

Teresin Mendezona is half-Spanish, half-Middle Eastern, but goes for Asian and Filipino motifs to design tables that reek of geography's multivaried individualisms

CEBU City's leading design consultant is crazy for anything Asian, never mind if she has not a single drop of Filipino blood in her Caucasian veins. Teresin Mendezona barely had a day's notice to prepare for this pictorial, but like the real trooper, the city's answer to Martha Stewart was able to whip up not one but four table settings dripping with touches of tropicana.

"My mother is Spanish, while my dad was from the Middle East," says the gracious host, looking cool in a lime green blouse, white capri pants and a pair of light-gray mules. "Unfortunately, I don't have Filipino blood, but I consider myself 100-percent Filipino."

"I prefer Asian things over European," she explains amid the warm confines of her Southeast Asian-inspired home teeming with wood accents and potted bougainvillea. "Even Asian food is more exciting, tasty and artistically presented."

And this sentiment was very much evident in her creations that day, which covered lunch, afternoon tea and dinner. She even added a bonus for figure-conscious women like her: a glass-topped table setting in the verandah that featured fresh *piña* and *ubod* salad served in several hollowed pineapple heads cut in half. Yes, this lady also knows her way around the kitchen. A pink orchid freshly picked from the garden accented each serving.

"It's my treat for ladies who lunch on a diet," she quips. "I mixed the pineapple, *ubod* and cashew nuts in light mayonnaise and Nestlé cream."

Teresin then crowned the arrangement with an accent piece of mini pineapples stuck with yellow dancing ladies and placed them on a piece of driftwood. Votive candles in yellow brightened the entire setting as they glowed from equally mini terra-cotta pots placed around the table.

"I love yellow," says Teresin, who began her art as a hobby before eventually lending her services to some of Cebu's richest and most prominent families. "The color gives any arrangement a certain kind of warmth."

For the bigger lunch table, she chose a matte gold tablecloth that contrasted perfectly with the deep green napkins she snapped up from sister Carmen Campbell, who owns a store in the city which sells fine linen.

Talk about a table that has literally gone bananas. This time, a bunch of *saging na saba*, which doubled as a flower vase, became the round four-sitter's focal point. The bunch was set on a spread of *anahaw* leaves and stuck with a shower of dancing ladies. Teresin served her salad consisting of tender bits of *puso ng saging* with vinegar dressing on its on reddish outer layer. She then placed them on a plate edged with matching bold tropical prints.

"Imagine, I had to call my maids yesterday to remind them not to discard the *puso's* outer layers," she says in between chuckles. "Thank goodness they didn't, or I'd have been left today with nothing to use."

Fancy plates

She doesn't go for expensive plates with fancy brands, by the way. She collects plates that catch her fancy. Most of her pieces are obscure brands she got from travels abroad. Some interesting square pieces in earth colors featured on the dinner table were sourced from Cardinal Ceramics.

A *capiz* shell mounted on a piece of bamboo became Teresin's idea of a place card. Tie-dyed fabrics sourced from somewhere in the South were turned into eye-catching seat covers to hide those boring monobloc chairs.

Look how her creative mind has found new uses for certain objects. To think that the lady of the house never meant to use those fabrics that way. Well, she shrugs, it pays to have a cache of items you can use at a moment's notice when you're in this line of work.

"I intended to use them [tie-dyed fabrics] for my hanging lampshades," she says, "but somehow I never got the chance to do them. You have to have a certain eye for this, but anybody can do it if they let their imagination take flight. Don't be afraid to put things together. You'll be amazed at the results."

Teresin's afternoon tea setting, for instance, was far from the typical arrangement that could lull you to dreamland. Hers was a simple but bold statement composed of a plain violet tablecloth, lilac asters and pink roses from Cebu.

Again, drama was reserved in the dishes with unmistakable Oriental patterns that blended easily with the round table's strong background. Teresin chucked vases in favor of several matching cups and saucers for the dainty floral arrangements. Shimmery chintz had been consigned as chair covers.

"It's really an ideal table topper," she says of the chintz. "But since the plates are already ornate, I decided to use the chintz somewhere else."

Subdued dinner

In contrast, her idea of dinner was decidedly subdued, what with the table's wealth of yellow, wood and earth tones. A lush arrangement of ferns, bromeliads and birds of paradise highlighted the rectangular table. Teresin again made use of dancing ladies to "soften" an otherwise rustic and outdoorsy floral piece. A huge *anahaw* leaf again doubled as the base.

"I'm not guided by any rules and regulations" she says, when asked how she does it. "I do whatever comes to my mind. It really helps, though, to have plenty of good pieces within one's reach."

Instead of bananas, this time, Teresin played with coconuts—from the place mats to the young coconut shells that doubled as bowls for her *binakol*. It's chicken soup, actually, flavored with strips of young coconut, ginger and lemongrass ideal before a heavy meal.

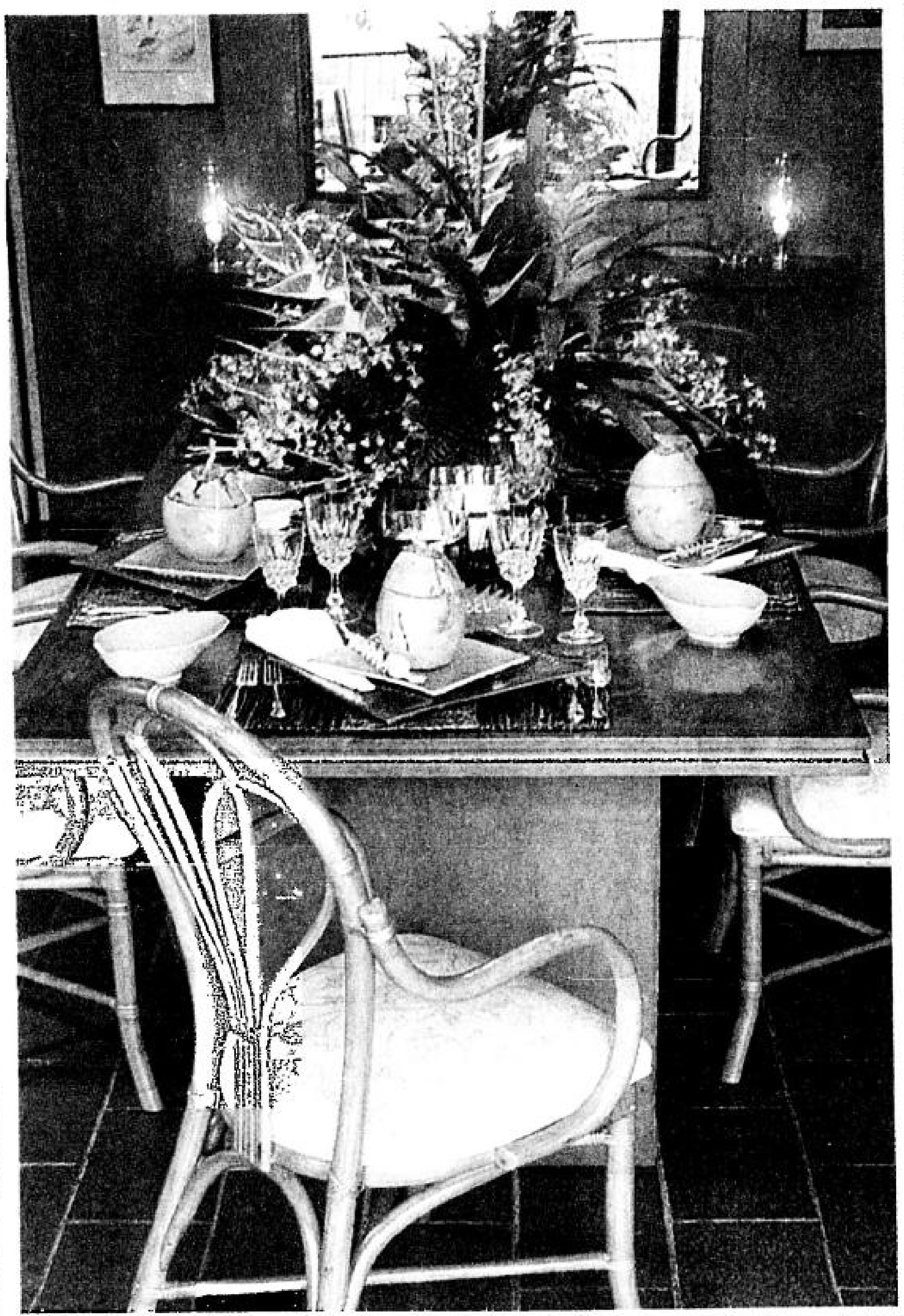
"We all learn from our mistakes," she continues. "One thing I've learned is not to mix too many colors all at the same time. When in doubt, stick with things that come from nature. They never clash."

Place mats from Bacolod, for instance, were made of dried *butay*, twig-like fringes attached to the actual coconut fruit. Coffee-colored square dishes provided a perfect foil to the yellow coconut shell above and to the brown place mat underneath. Dried leaves, each carrying the name of one of Cebu City's leading society matrons, were turned into place cards.

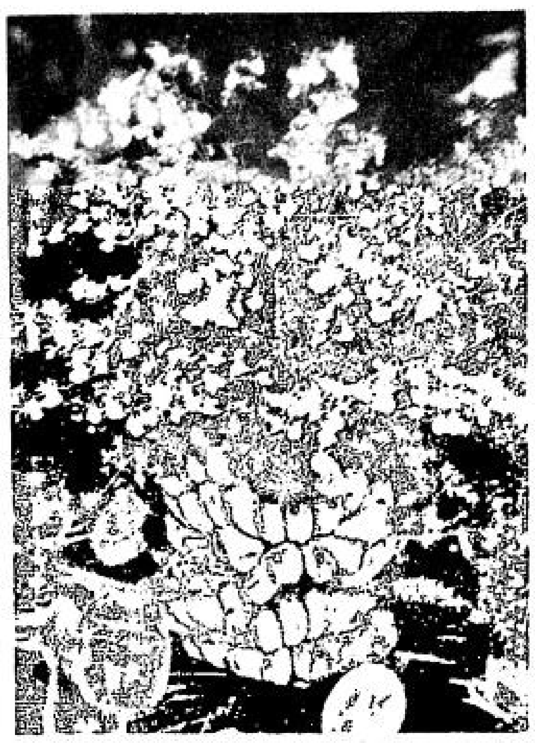
"*Dios mio*!" she exclaims. "I had to scour for the ideal pentel pen yesterday at National Bookstore to get the right silvery shade. It's a good thing the salesladies there were very helpful."

Imagine the lengths this true-blue Pinay with natural brown hair, sharp features and that unmistakable Cebuano humor would go to just to get her Asian table setting right.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

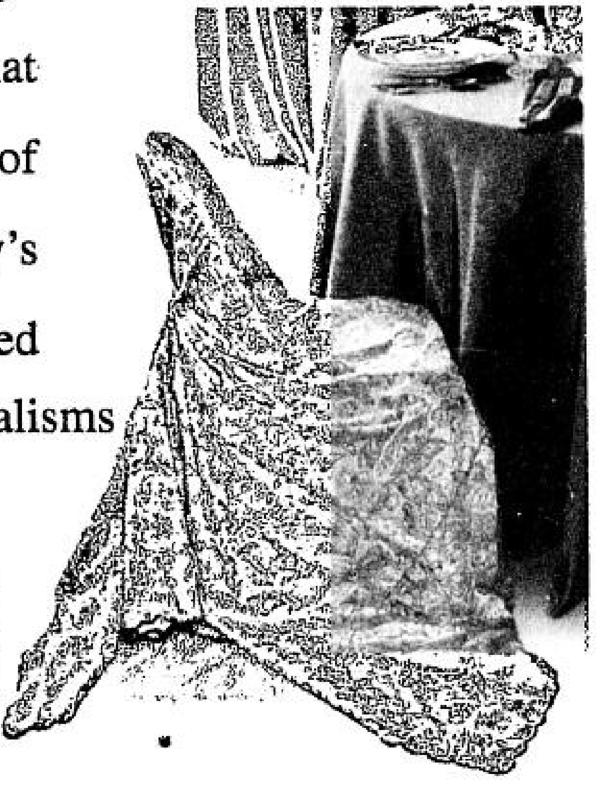


COCONUT CREATION. Teresin assembles items derived from coconuts—from the soup bowl to the place mat—for this dinner setting. A spray of dancing ladies softens a rustic arrangement of bromeliads, ferns and birds of paradise. Coffee-colored square dishes contrast with yellow coconut shells that double as soup bowls. Place mats are made of *butay*, also derived from the tree of life.



GOIN' BANANAS. A bouquet of dancing ladies is stuck to a bunch of *saging na saba*, while a spread of *anahaw* doubles as a centerpiece for this lunch setting.

SALAD of *piña* and *ubod* in light mayonnaise and Nestlé Cream is served on a hollowed pineapple head.



SHINY chintz draws attention away from the table and onto the chair.

PINEAPPLE PERFECT. Hollowed pineapple head cut in half function as salad bowls. Mini pineapples are set on a piece of driftwood spruced up with dancing ladies. Votive candles in small terra-cotta pots have a calming effect on this table setting inspired by ladies who lunch.

NO to vases and yes to dainty cups.

Disappearing river alarms barangay folk in Tanza, Cavite

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

THE RESIDENTS of Barangay 5, Amaya, Tanza, Cavite are filled with anxiety and fear. According to Barangay 5 spokesperson Enrique C. Abad, the developers of a new village in their locality are undertaking reclamation work that is clogging their river, the Amaya, and consequently flooding their town. What compounds the problem, says Abad, is the seeming disinterest of local officials to their plight, and the violation by developers of the provisions of the Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) that was issued to them by the DENR on Jan. 19, 2000.

Abad writes: "Our place here in Amaya was not a low-lying area. It was a few meters above sea level. Our river stretches a few hundred meters toward Manila Bay so flooding was never a problem until lately." He means, until the reclamation project which is filling up part of the river and causing "terrible, strong and swift floods" that have already destroyed or swept away residents' belongings (TV sets, mattresses and other household items). He fears that continued floodings could also pose a danger to their lives.

The problems could be minimized, even prevented, he stresses, if only local officials, developers, building contractors helped monitor environmental compliance of the project and maintain the integrity of the original width of the river.

In the face of the apathetic attitude of their public officials (they never held public meetings or consultations, says Abad), the people of Amaya have only God and concerned people to turn to, among whom PDI columnists Tita Dulce (Live and Let Live) and this corner have been included.

He informs us that the floods may have the greatest impact on his barangay but there are side issues regarding the reclamation project as well. There is the matter of Right of Way. "Our barangay roads were sacrificed, resulting in damaged road infrastructures leading to the village that is being developed."

This happens every time heavy equipment like bulldozers pass through barangay roads like "war tanks," leaving steel marks, cracks and other damage. And yet, he adds, "these roads were built with our taxes."

In dry weather, barangay residents complain of dust and debris (from filling materials) blown by the wind from loaded but uncovered dump trucks.

Abad claims that reclamation is going on in Amaya River without the necessary permit, and in rampant violation of ECC provisions on that matter. "We suspect," Abad continues, "that piece-meal development is being done by the village development proponents to avoid paying the [required] fees and taxes..."

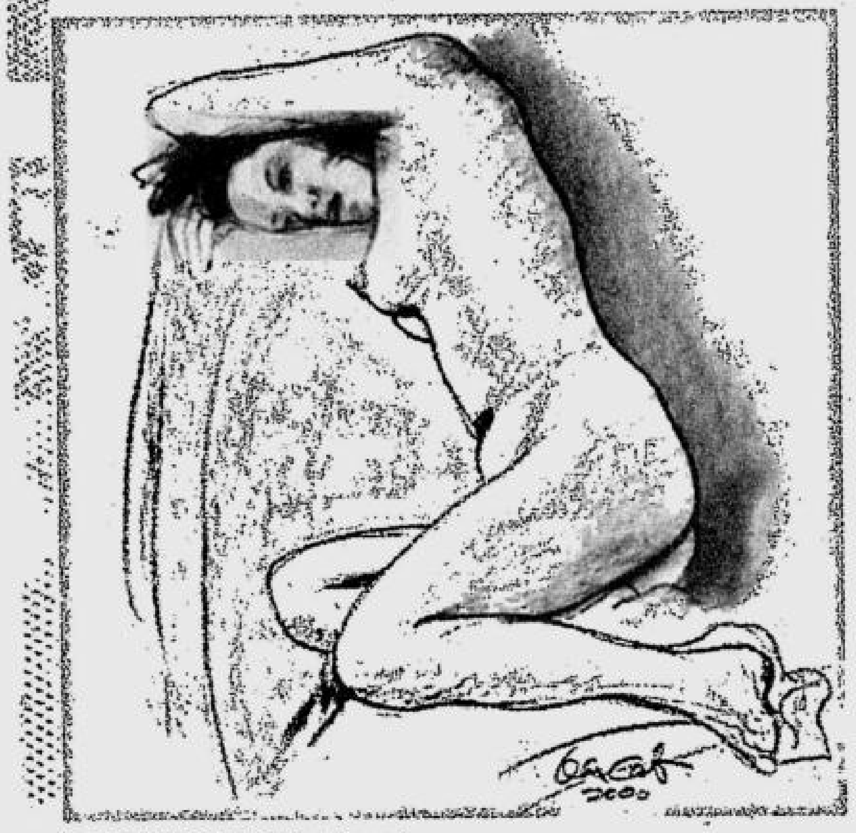
In addition to the complaint on floodings, Abad also asks why the developers prohibit local people (especially those from Amaya) from buying lots, or houses and lots, even those who have the capacity to buy and be part of the new village community. This is the only medium-cost subdivision he knows of that has set such prohibition, he says.

Attached to Abad's letter are a copy each of the ECC issued by the DENR to the Financial Building (Subic Bay) Corp. (FBSBC), which is undertaking the subdivision project—Pacific Ace Village I—(where violated provisions are marked out), and the letter sent by Amaya residents, with their signatures, to the Councilors of Tanza requesting their help in solving the flood problem.

It seems the problem of Amaya cannot be confined to that barangay alone. Reclaiming rivers, bays, even *esteros* (estuaries) is bound to have impacts on neighboring areas. Close down an *estero* and you close up a draining system, causing floods like those experienced by Amaya folk.

Figuring this out is plain common sense, and proof of its disastrous effects can be found wherever a waterway has been covered up.

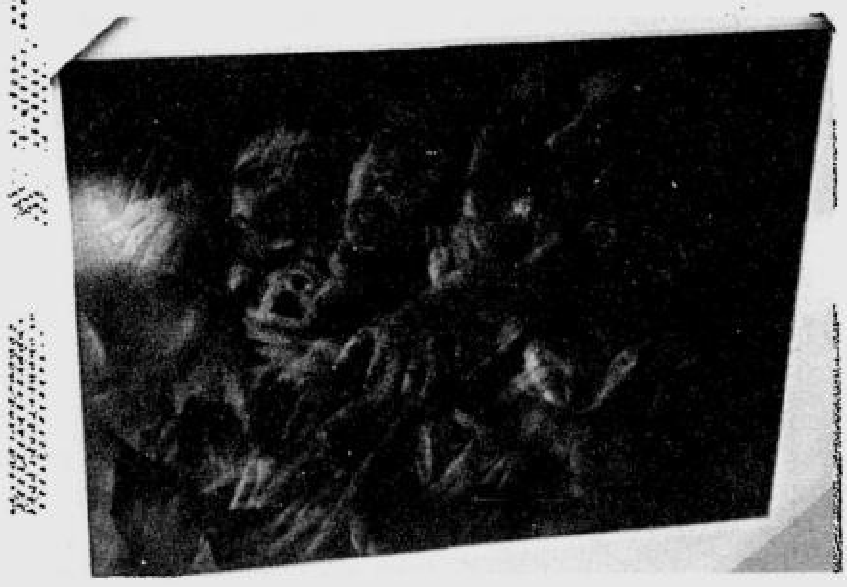
Why the developers are reclaiming the Amaya River is probably not a secret. But we would be interested to hear from the FBSBC directly.



"RECLINING NUDE" by Bencab

Onibs and Bencabs in auction today

RARE artworks in pen and inks by Bencab and the late Onib Olmedo are some of the items that will be auctioned by Ad-Infinitum Galleries and the Blumentritt Group of Artists today at Ad-Infinitum (190 F. Blumentritt St., San Juan). Call Christine or Ester at 726-9015 or 724-3032.



"UNTITLED" by Onib Olmedo

What to expect if you buy spoiled products

(From page D8)

Quick response

WE praise the RFM-White King consumer service section for the speedy action on the complaint we referred to them. Customer Anna dela Cruz bought a box of hotcake with live insects. The store ignored her complaint and refused to refund her money or change the spoiled item.

Here's the report of Cora Aenell of customer services: "We did our own investigation and found out that the library samples of the same product bearing similar batch codes showed no infestation whatsoever. We also found out that test samples proved the product was good and acceptable.

"For your information, we visited the complainant on Feb. 13 and replaced the product in question. The case is now considered settled."

Fly in the sauce

HERE'S a letter forwarded to us by Tita Dulce: "I hope the incident that happened to me and my family will serve as a lesson to many. (This restaurant) is known for its sumptuous Filipino dishes, the good ambience and the clean surroundings... However, this feeling of pride turned to embarrassment and dismay when one of our guests saw a fly in the special *kare-kare* dish."

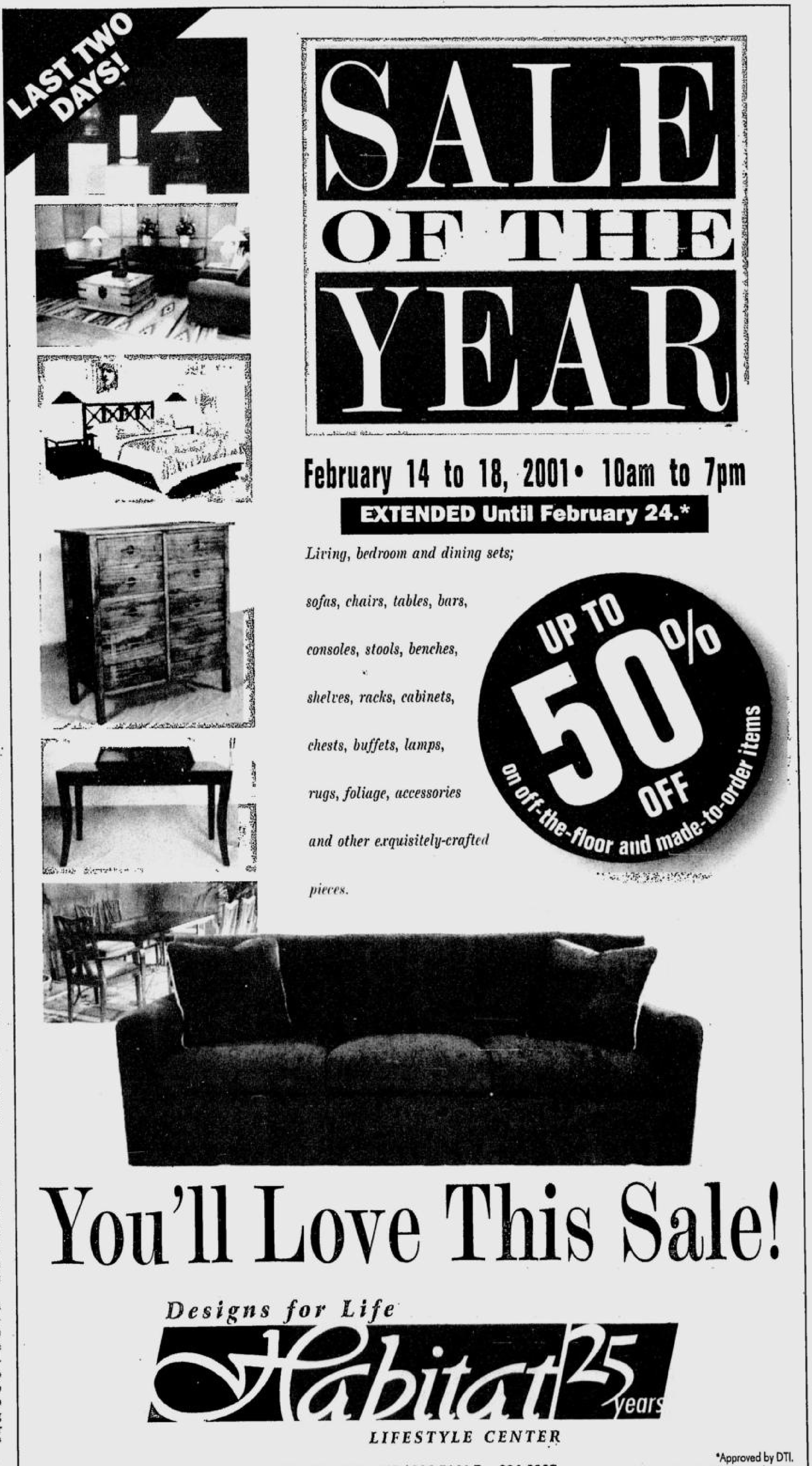
Rosel, the letter sender, complained that the manager did not bother to listen to their complaint. "We waited 30 minutes for her. She disappeared after instructing the cashier to discount the bill of one of our guests."

Beware of cell phone swindler

DINNA de Leon warns unsuspecting consumers about a smooth-talking six-footer who offers top-of-the line cellular phones at a discounted price. He offers a deal one cannot resist, De Leon said. He tells potential victims that he gets the units from a customs man who sells smuggled cell phones.

"He offered to give me a Nokia 8850 if I gave him my four-month-old Nokia 8210 (worth P15,000) plus P2,000 in cash. To convince me that it was an honest-to-goodness transaction, he asked me to drive him to the supplier at Camp Karingal. He then instructed me to wait in the car. To make a long story short, he was gone forever with my Nokia 8210 and P2,000. "

E-mail the author at giron@csi.com.ph



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EXTENDED Until February 24.*

Living, bedroom and dining sets;

sofas, chairs, tables, bars,

consoles, stools, benches,

shelves, racks, cabinets,

chests, buffets, lamps,

rugs, foliage, accessories

and other exquisitely-crafted

pieces.

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*Approved by DTI.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-011, Series of 2001.

What to expect if you buy spoiled products

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

THERE'S a lot to be desired when it comes to customer service, particularly when it has to do with handling complaints about spoiled or contaminated food products. With very few exceptions, business establishments ignore complaints, or they delay action, obviously expecting the complainant to finally give up the pursuit.

So, Mozart Pastrano, don't be surprised at all why the customer service department of a milk company has yet to act on the complaint you sent them several weeks ago.

The writer complained that the milk he bought at a supermarket was spoiled. Unfortunately, he discovered this only after drinking a mouthful straight from the carton.

We doubt if the customer care department even bothered to check the supermarket shelf if the other milk products in the same batch were not spoiled.

This week, we received yet another gripe from a PR consultant about the supervisor of a seafood outlet in Landmark, Makati who replied to her complaint after one month-and-a-half. She called attention to the spoiled *sinigang na ulo sa miso* which she said she bought at the outlet.

As if the delayed response to her complaint was not bad enough, the store supervisor had to tell her she was the only customer that complained about the spoiled dish.

WHAT/ p.D7

Get big discounts on original Nokia phones and accessories at the Nokia booth.

Hello Gbelt
texting Greenbelt

Hello Town
texting Alabang Town Center

Hello Accebu
texting Ayala Center Cebu

Hello Glrta
texting Glorietta

Text and hang out at your favorite Ayala mall to win prizes galore!

Just text your favorite Ayala mall "Hello" through your Globe Handyphone during mall hours and get a chance to win some really cool prizes in our TXT 4 Thrills promo!

Here's how to text:
If you're in Glorietta, text: "Hello Glrta"
If you're in Greenbelt, text: "Hello Gbelt"
If you're in Alabang Town Center, text: "Hello Town"
If you're in Ayala Center Cebu, text: "Hello ACCebu" (for Cebu residents only)

Send your text to 2333 and receive our WELCOME TEXT featuring the latest mall events and discounts for the day. And if you're lucky, you'll also receive our confirmation that you're one of 90 daily winners of Ayala Cinema tickets, Timezone Powercards or gift certificates from Ayala Mall establishments! What's more, drop by the TXT 4 Thrills booth for a chance to win NOKIA gift checks! Just answer the questionnaire and play the Booth Thrills game at our computer terminal. So hurry and start texting your favorite Ayala mall now and we'll send thrills up your spine in the TXT 4 Thrills promo!

NOKIA
CONNECTING PEOPLE

TXT 4 THRILLS

myAyala.com

Promo period is from January 29 to May 25, 2001.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0026, Series of 2001.

TOWN
AYALA CENTER CEBU

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Nestea EXTRA SWEET MEALS

P69 P79 P89

SIZZLING PLATE
Hawaiian Burger with Java Rice and Mixed Vegetables

PINOY TOPPING
Mini Bursilog, Arroz ala Cubana, 2 pcs. Longganisa with Egg, Rice and Soup

Shin Chia TEA HOUSE
Beef Oyster, Lumpiang Shanghai and Rice

PANSIT MALABON
Chicken BBQ, Lechon Kawali, 1 pc. Puto, Rice and Soup

KIMCHI
Korean BBQ, Belly Liempo

QUEEN'S Ilocano Food
Kare-kare and Rice

ILONGGO GRILL
Pork Steak with Vegetables Siding and Rice

Inihaw EXPRESS
Choice of: Sinigang na Baboy, Kare-kare, Sisig, served with Vegetables, Rice and Soup

GOTO KING
Regular Batchoy and Fried Lumpia

BULALOHAN
Grilled Porkchop, Pansit & Rice

KAMAY KAINAN
Kalderetang Baka, Fried Lumpia Togue, Rice and Soup

WEI-CHUAN FOODS
Lumpiang Shanghai, Fried Chicken, Plain Rice & Soup

HEN LIN MAMI DIMSUM HOUSE
Wanton or Beef Mami, 2 pcs. Mini Cuapao

Sandy's Cuisine
Beef with Chili, Kangkong with Oyster Sauce, Plain Rice and Soup

LYDIA'S LECHON
Sisig, Rice with Vegetables

LaChesca
Kare-kare, Shanghai Rolls and Rice

Chin's eXpress
Choice of: Lechon Macao, Beef in Oyster Sauce, Crispy Chicken, served with Vegetables, Rice and Soup

ISDA
Fried Saliyasi or Fish Lumpia Pansit Canton, 2 Rice & Soup

WOK'S COOKIN'
Spareribs and Plain Rice

Luring's barbeque house
Kare-kare and Rice

MING'S GARDEN CHINESE CUISINE
Crispy Chicken, Beef Brisket, Miki Guisado, Rice and Soup

Otochan Express
Tonkatsu and Rice

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Something new about something old

BY JOSE JAVIER REYES

ANTIQUE collection has been around since the obsessive-compulsive exercised their "never-enough" principle. But, of late, the focus of the collecting habit has ceased to be limited to Orientalia, *santos*, native furniture or even merchandising memorabilia.

Fashion embraced this curiosity as a reaction to… well, fashion. The New Economy spawned what David Brooks called the *bourgeois bohemians* or the *bobos:* these dotcom children whose unfathomable wealth came too much, too soon exercised political correctness while avaizling of their powers for conspicuous consumption. Thus, with their purchasing clout, the *bobos* were in complete defiance of the me-centeredness of the '80s, the decade that represented the logocentric existence of their own parents whose material acquisitions must foist the brand in order to gain acceptability.

Bobos wanted to change aesthetics and fashion taste. They will campaign for environmental protection, shun extravagance in any vulgar form, emphasize healthy living and continuously seek spirituality. They will not spend thousands for personal adornments, shudder at the thought of anything crass in character yet not hesitate to spend much more for four-wheel drives, the latest exercise machine… or better yet, prettying their homes not with gold-gilded furniture but with rustic elements. They make sure that in their lifestyle they express rather than exhibit.

Anti-fashion

It is from this culture of the *bobos* that a different revolt against fashion was born. True, they may not be the first to defy the tyranny of glossy magazines and multimillion-dollar marketing plans that turn the latest trends into necessities. They are not brave enough to be iconoclastic either to go to the cutting edge extent of punk culture. Instead, they redefined the nerd and the geek—repackaged this with eccentric and eclectic urban trappings and came out with their own aesthetics.

Anti-fashion was such a great issue last year when new show-biz icons like Chloe Sevigny took the route of vintage clothing for her media exposure. The flea market and secondhand stores have been around and ignored as secret treasure chests for major finds. Even during the short yet mollifying age of the supermodels, those anorexic symbols of the *au courant* have pried into the aisles of vintage clothing shops for their own personal dressing. And there are those who believe that throwing money on flash-of-the-minute clothes and accessories leads to ultimate waste thus defining their own look by putting together the precious rejects of others.

But that all changed when vintage clothing suddenly became the look against the look. References to the fashion of the '50s, '60s and '70s permeated the mainstream, rising above the *bobo* culture and turning the kitsch and the tacky into evidence of individuality. Vintage Saint-Laurents, Chanels and Valentinos were thrown carelessly together while reviving synthetic fabrics like jersey or eternal looks like denims into anti-glamour.

Fashion saw Donatella Versace create an entire line as a tribute to Emilio Pucci, complete with Stepford Wives-teased hair and panda eye shadows. Helmut Lang derived from the works of Courreges, Tom Ford of Gucci made his own version of '60s and '70s Givenchy while Miuccia Prada made every woman look like Mary Tyler Moore while coming out with bowling bags made of purple peacock leather.

Going hand in hand with these experiments that used benchmarks from the past was the change in accessorizing. Chunky chain belts, gargantuan gold-tone brooches and pins, heavy metallic necklaces replaced all the restrictions of Spartan minimalism. It was as if there was deliberate effort to be "neo-vulgarian," to push the limits of excessiveness of design and volume while retaining modernism. More curious, the move was to emphasize the elements considered tasteless and suddenly turning them into tasteful under the name of fun.

Because of this predilection for artifacts and images of the past, vintage jewelry has also become highly collectible. Although fashion centered on the styles of the past four decades, vintage jewelry collection went far back farther. Interest was suddenly focused on Edwardian, Victorian, art nouveau and art deco jewelry. Special focus was also given to the chunky jewelry of the '40s and '50s, specifically in brooches utilizing glass gems imitating rubies, topaz, emeralds, amethysts, sapphires and crystal diamonds.

Decorative arts

But here is where the difference lies. Vintage jewelry collectors can be divided into those who seriously collect pieces utilizing authentic precious and semiprecious stones and the greater number who have leaped into acquiring old costume jewelry.

Costume or fancy jewelry has also been around since the last decades of the 19th century as a product and reaction to the aesthetics and technological developments of the time. The personal decorative arts of the period—ranging from the Edwardian to the much-revered age of

SOMETHING/ p.E6

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Neo-Italian accent armchair designed from smooth-grain leather

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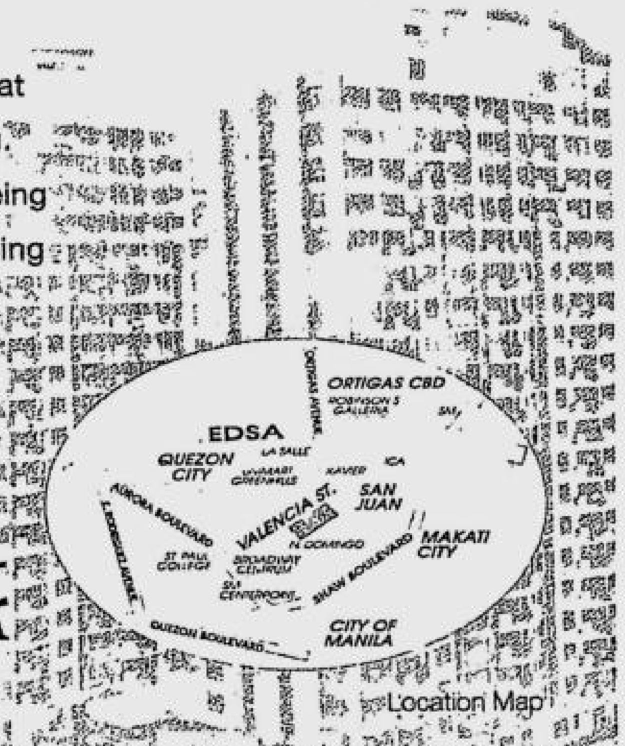

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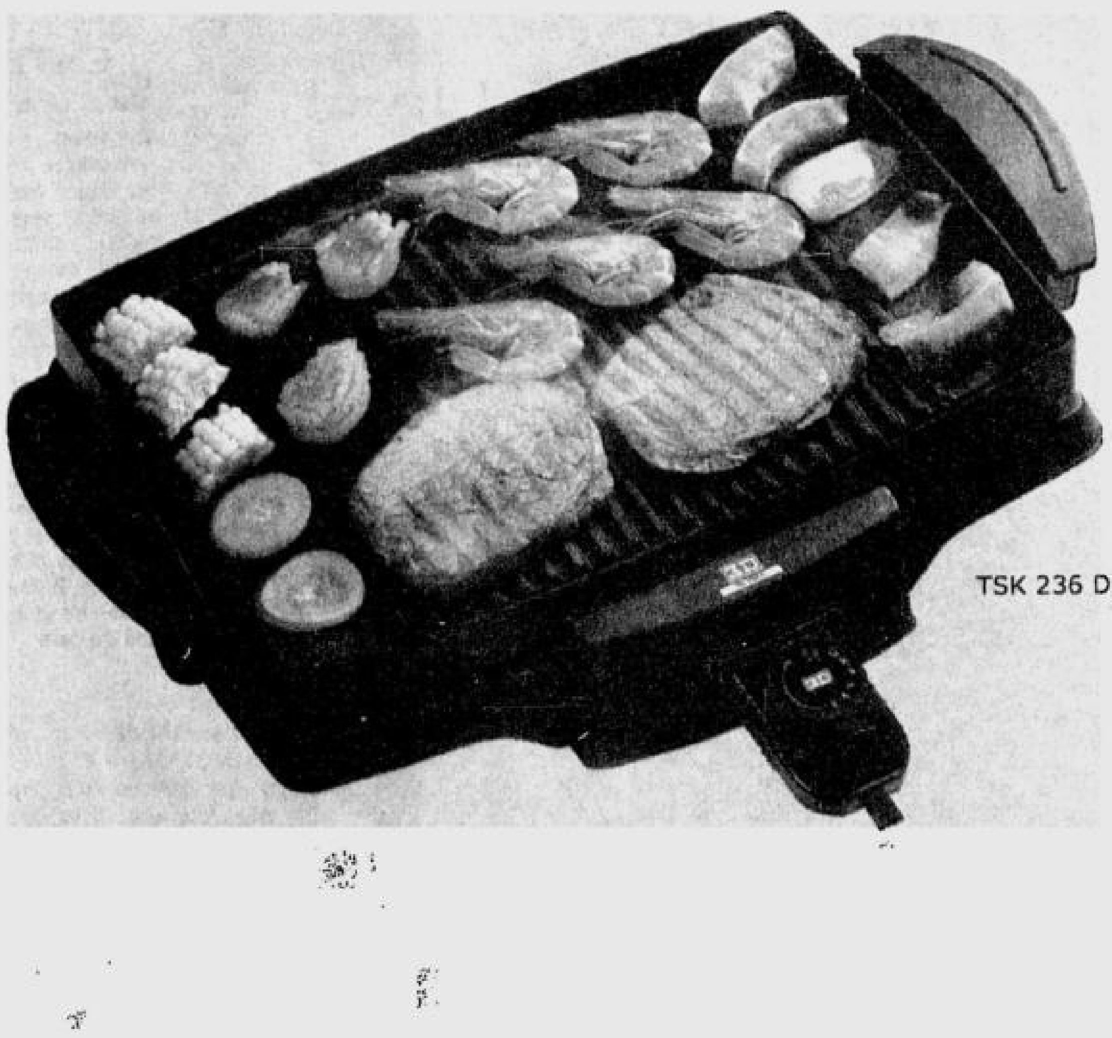

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The gems of Prague

DESPITE warnings, no one can really be completely prepared for Prague.

Anyone who has experienced this city in the Czech Republic would be quick to shower it superlatives. Think Franz Kafka and Art Noveau. For the Filipino traveler, it is the Santo de Niño de Praha or Jezulatko—the miraculous image of the infant Jesus housed at the Church of the Virgin Mary Victorious as the destination for a pilgrimage. But late January meant five to minus 10 degrees centigrade—exactly the kind of weather that frightens creatures raised in tropical countries where seasons are defined by dust and rain. Also think Bohemian glass and crystals or vintage Czech jewelry.

Prague looks different from pictures. The surprise hits you after almost 18 hours of travel. Setting aside jet lag and the sudden whiff of winter air that numbs your nose and ears, Prague is a city that is warm with living history.

Cobblestone alleys lead to magic squares with 17th-century monuments lit strategically at night. Centuries-old architectural forms seemed to have randomly grown through layers of events, standing side by side and remaining untouched because of reverence close to holiness. Then there is the Charles Bridge sparkling on a Sunday afternoon with musicians, artists and tourists from all over Europe absorbing the sensation of people and place.

A friend of mine mentioned about *collective memory*. She said that what Filipinos sadly lack is a genuine past that we can all share and experience in the here and now. Collective memory is not only an endless accounting and recounting of history. It has got to do with everything around you that points and proves why and how we got to where we are. Not only artifacts but also articles tangible to the person bring a consciousness of why you are and who you have become.

Endless possibilities

Prague seems so complete with all that. To someone with enthusiasm and interest in vintage jewelry, Prague offers endless possibilities as long as one has the eye and the patience. In jewelry-making, Czech crystals and Bohemian glass are key components in recreating Edwardian, Victorian, Noveau and Deco styles. Despite the greater prominence given to the Austrian Swarovski products, Bohemian glass is never considered a poor substitute; it is an alternative. After all, Bohemian jewelry remains a tradition much like the purity of Prague as a city and an epicenter of culture in Europe.

> To see jewel craft tradition kept alive and perfected through generations of artists and manufacturers gives one a sense of continuum to the story of Prague and its people

THE AUTHOR in Prague during the recent trip. Doesn't he look like Bjork?

Most interesting though is that little boutiques located near the twisting cobblestone streets of the Castle will reveal the production of beautiful art noveau jewelry. Rings, brooches and necklaces in sterling silver are reproductions of the familiar curlicues and twisting organic forms easily identified with the late 19th- to early 20th-century movement. Dragonflies, butterflies, cicadas and ladies with flowing hair provide the form matched with enameling and authentic baroque or teardrop pearls.

Prague also provides venues for serious collectors of vintage jewelry—if you are stuffed with that kind of cash. After the sporadic interest in acquiring vintage designer clothes, trends indicate a sudden resurgence of interest in vintage jewelry, specifically centering on Edwardian and Victoriana pieces. Prices of these items zoomed tremendously in the past two months as an increasing number of *aficionados* scour flea markets, estate sales and antique shops for prize finds.

Keeping it alive

Since there is a very limited choice of these items in our country, Prague looks like a wonderland. If only to feast the eyes, the sight of semiprecious stone in Bidermeier settings, authentic 8-10K late 19th- or early 20th-century lockets, carved or inlay coral and ivory bracelets or genuine art noveau sterling necklaces with incorporated baroque pearls can be definitions of heaven on earth. But these pieces will definitely upset the frugal traveler's budget: a Bidermeier turquoise demi-parure costs about $500. A gold locket with paste accents takes about $150 sans the 2.5 mm link chain, which is bought separately.

Yet this is the enriching experience at Prague: To see jewel craft tradition kept alive and perfected through generations of artists and manufacturers. The importance awarded to the past and the manner by which tradition has found meaning through generations have fostered a strong sense of nationalism and identity.

Unlike the dying traditional jewelry arts in our country where even silversmiths and *tamburin* makers are close to extinction, style and design are never dated according to adaptations of most sellable designs. Commercial value is attached to the uniqueness founded by an established period style. Unlike Thailand where jewelry-making has become part of a vocational curriculum, our government has given less than enthusiastic premium or incentives to bring about development and fruition to the works of our genius jewelry designers and craftsmen in Bulacan.

No one warns you enough about what to expect from Prague. It is indeed one of the most beautiful cities in the world, finding new life in its freedom and making sure that its democratic space will bring favorable change. The visit may be short... and with the kindness of the members of the Philippine Embassy there (catering to a grand total of only 39 Filipinos), the memories of the stay are the most priceless gems.

Jose Javier Reyes

FIRST batch of successful graduates of Supervised Pastoral Education under the Clinical Pastoral Education Training Program of the San Juan de Dios Educational Foundation Inc. (Hospital) Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. The group underwent 11 staggered but intensive training under Sr. Cecille Dagoob, training supervisor, from Nov. 24. 2000 to Feb. 10. Graduation as seen in picture was taken on Feb. 14 at the Assumpta Hall of the Hospital. From left, Bernard Diaz, housekeeping-CSR; Mercy Abad, X-Ray; Luz Eresmas, finance; Nila Lacanilao, chief pharmacist; Mila Ancheta, admin. office, Malou Belesario, nurse supervisor (4th floor); Michie Gevero, nurse supervisor-TQM training; Fred Estrada, nurse supervisor-OR/DR.

Bantay Bata holds workshops on value of play

GOINGS-ON

BANTAY Bata 163 presents "Playing by Heart," a series of workshops and lectures that aim to teach grownups the value of play. Dr. Fred Donaldson, an American psychologist and educational consultant, facilitates the workshops. "Playing by Heart" workshops and lectures are scheduled to tour several places in the country: Manila, Feb. 23 to March 7; Visayas (Iloilo and Bacolod), March 8-13; and Davao, March 14-16. The workshops are recommended for psychologists, psychiatrists, child-care professionals, teachers, health-care professionals (people working with cancer patients and psychiatric cases) and parents. "Playing by Heart" is copresented by Philippine Airlines and Psychpros. Call 929-0967, 415-6627 or Mela at 436-0229 and 372-0483.

EXPO. ePLDT is the Official Security System Co. at this year's e-Commerce Expo 2001. The expo is ongoing at Megamall's Megatrade Hall until Feb. 25. ePLDT fields four of its front-runner companies in said event with mySecureSign as the lead company. Vitro, ePLDT's Internet Data Center, will also be part of the event to plug its colocation, hosting, business continuity and application services, among others. Infocom and Home Cable will represent ePLDT's convergent Internet and Cable technologies.

PHOTO COURSE. The Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation Inc. will be conducting a basic photo course on Feb. 25 at Yslas Restaurante in Fort Santiago, Intramuros, Manila. FPPFI holds office at the Comfoods Building, Buendia Avenue, Pasong Tamo, Makati City. Call 843-5341 or 813-7420.

LANGUAGE COURSES. The Goethe-Institut Manila, German Cultural Center is offering German language courses for beginners at the Madrigal Art Center, Ayala Alabang, until March 29. Call the Madrigal Art Center at 842-0127 or the Goethe-Institut at 722-4671 to 73.

ANNIVERSARY. Earthlite Foundation will be celebrating its second anniversary by holding a series of events on Feb. 24. Activities include sports, exhibitions, lectures and free services from Ginhawa Wellness Center. Earthlite Foundation is at 4/F COD Department Store, Araneta Center, Cubao, QC.

PERFORMANCE. Filmmaker, theater director and indigenous peoples' rights activist Kanakan Balintagos (formerly known as Auraeus Solito) will be leading the performance of a *basal* (a Palawan ritual) on the CCP grounds today, tomorrow and on Feb. 25. A *panggao* (a type of Palawan performance stage) will be erected especially for this performance. Call 832-1125 to 39.

FORUM. The Adoptive Families Foundation, the leading resource and support group for Philippine adoptive families, is holding a forum dubbed "The Whys and Wherefores of Telling" on March 3, 1:30-5:30 p.m., at the Center for Family Ministries Building, Ateneo de Manila campus, Loyola Heights. The forum will feature presentations by family counselors and personal sharing by adoptive parents and adoptees. Call the AFF Office at 454-7670 or 927-6448.

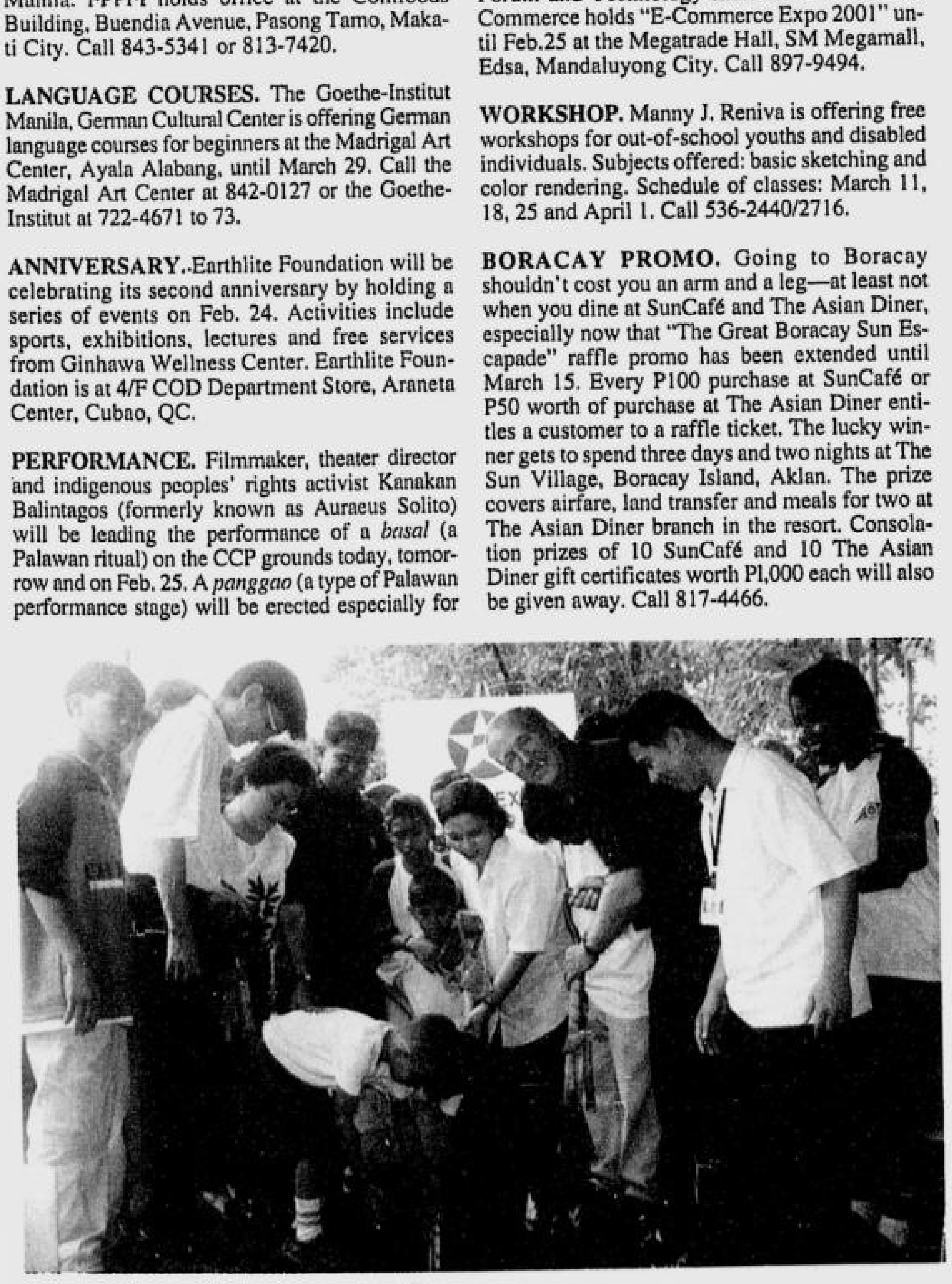
RAFFLE PROMO. 3G Exhibit Connection's with Shangri-La Plaza Mall's 8th monthly raffle date has been finally set on Feb. 28, 5 p.m. To join the raffle, for every P1,000 single or accumulated purchase from any of Shangri-La's shops, shopper will simply present his receipt(s) in exchange for corresponding coupon(s). Coupon(s) should be redeemed on the same date of purchase. For more details, see posters and listen to 105.1 Crossover.

WORKSHOP. Robinsons Town Mall Los Baños provides the perfect venue for housewives to further hone their talents and skills in the "Mothers' Circle Workshop" series, which will be held at the mall's activity area. These ongoing series are held every Saturday afternoon until March 31, and will offer the latest techniques on candy-making, crafts-making like stuffed toy-making, bead accessories, specialty bag-making, gifts and souvenirs. Call 633-9396/7641 to 90, locals 175 or 176.

EXPO. The Philippine International Business Forum and Technology Exhibition on Internet Commerce holds "E-Commerce Expo 2001" until Feb.25 at the Megatrade Hall, SM Megamall, Edsa, Mandaluyong City. Call 897-9494.

WORKSHOP. Manny J. Reniva is offering free workshops for out-of-school youths and disabled individuals. Subjects offered: basic sketching and color rendering. Schedule of classes: March 11, 18, 25 and April 1. Call 536-2440/2716.

BORACAY PROMO. Going to Boracay shouldn't cost you an arm and a leg—at least not when you dine at SunCafé and The Asian Diner, especially now that "The Great Boracay Sun Escapade" raffle promo has been extended until March 15. Every P100 purchase at SunCafé or P50 worth of purchase at The Asian Diner entitles a customer to a raffle ticket. The lucky winner gets to spend three days and two nights at The Sun Village, Boracay Island, Aklan. The prize covers airfare, land transfer and meals for two at The Asian Diner branch in the resort. Consolation prizes of 10 SunCafé and 10 The Asian Diner gift certificates worth P1,000 each will also be given away. Call 817-4466.


HOME FOR ABANDONED KIDS

Caltex Phils. Inc. country chair Nicholas Florio, third from right, leads the groundbreaking ceremonies for the construction of a special center to be called Caltex- Love the Children Home, which will house and rehabilitate disadvantaged children. Mercedita Jabagat, director III of DSWD, center, and Marian Catedral, Caltex corporate affairs manager, third from extreme left, together with the children of Love the Children Foundation Inc., assist him during the rites held in Toril, Davao City. The LTCFI is a Davao-based nongovernment organization which provides their beneficiaries with basic needs, including their education and formation of moral values.

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Place a 60 col. cm. ad (minimum size) in the April 2, 2000 issue of Job Market to enjoy the following freebies:
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• Job Market copies for job seekers on the 3-day affair
• Access to our Resumé Reserve databank gathered during the event
• Posting and exposure to participating companies in our print ads
• Resumés gathered during the event intended to a particular advertiser will be forwarded as an added service to the said company
Come to our job fair and get the chance to:
• Input your resumés directly into Resumé Reserve via our computers
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THIS JOB FAIR IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY Mindgate Technology Partner VillMan

"ALMOST Famous" cast

ANGELIC and frail-looking Kate Hudson with Billy Crudup

The '70s look makes a comeback

IN THE MOVIE "Almost Famous," art directors Clay A. Griffith and Clayton R. Hartley and costume designer Betsy Heimann brought back the decor and fashion of the early '70s not in the retro sense of today but as they were back then.

Cameron Crowe's first film since his Academy Award-winning hit "Jerry Maguire," Columbia Pictures' "Almost Famous" captures a pivotal time in the history of rock and roll. Set in 1973, it chronicles the funny and often poignant coming of age of 15-year-old William (Patrick Fugit), an unabashed music fan.

Neutral colors were extremely trendy fashion choices in 1973 so Heimann designed many of the costumes in shades of brown, olive and gold with pops of orange and scarlet. At the same time, there was a contrasting trend of red, white and blue. Lace, gauze, velvet, fringe, bell-bottoms, florals, cowboy hats, pattern on patterns and texture on textures all appear in varying degrees. In addition, all of the T-shirts were custom-made to reflect sayings and images of the period.

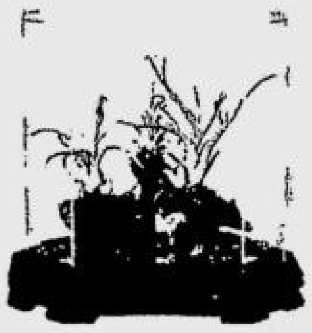
Heimann worked closely with the principal cast to "try to mesh the costumes not only with the character but with the actors." For Kate Hudson, whose character is both innocent and sensual, Heimann designed mostly diaphanous shirts, eyelet lace tank tops, brown velvet pants and, that long faux fur-collared coat so popular in the '70s.

At the Philippine Crafts Department

Wall Garden
by Kaisha
Distinctive decor dipped in
24k gold and elegantly framed in relief.

Real Flowers
EDGED W/24K PURE GOLD
MADE IN R.P.

Real orchids in antiqued frame



Air plant on driftwood in terrarium

Shell art against sandy backdrop

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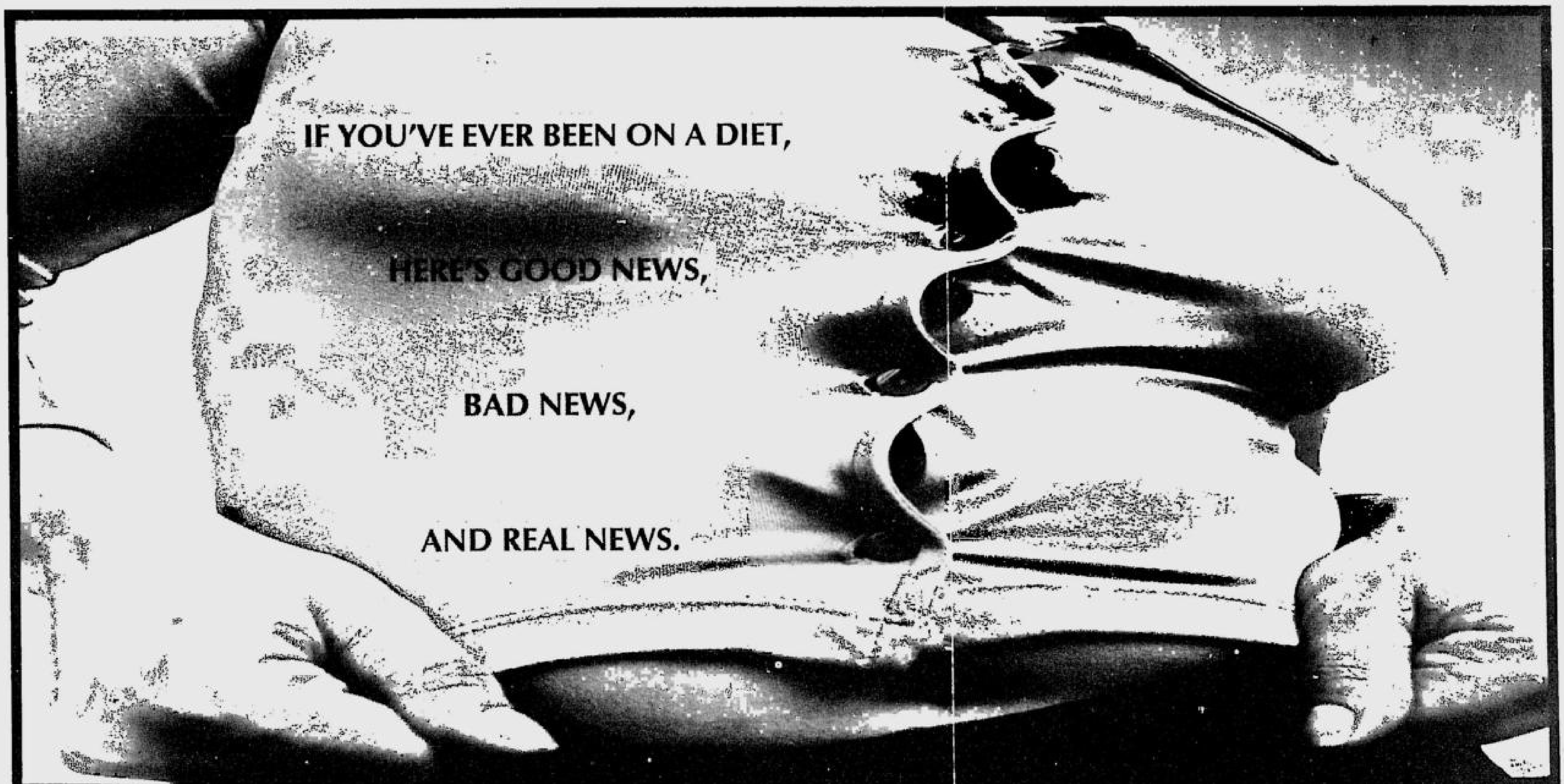


If you're on a diet, thinking of starting on one, or already have lost weight due to one, here's some **sobering news.** According to one recent survey, 75% of all dieters gain back most of the weight they lost within one year.

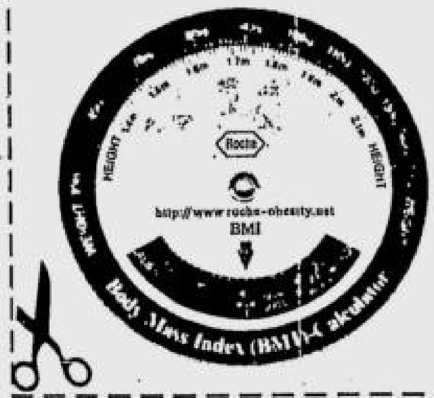
The **good news** for people going on a diet is that you will certainly lose weight in the short-term. But the **bad news** is that there's a better chance they will gain all that weight back.

The **real news:** there is no such thing as a short-term weight loss program. Losing weight requires a sustainable determination on your part, to watch the foods you eat, and to start on an exercise program. Which simply means that the earlier you stop making excuses, and start committing yourself to losing weight, the earlier you can enjoy the benefits of being fit. However, weight management should be closely monitored by a doctor. Also, you are advised not to resort to purchasing over-the-counter drugs.

Your doctor can also tell you about a proven treatment for obesity that has benefited more than 8.5 million individuals around the world. This drug has been well-researched by a reputable pharmaceutical company and is backed by clinical studies with proven efficacy and safety for 30 years before it was marketed. This new treatment, which is a lipase inhibitor, cuts down the absorption of dietary fat in the body by up to 30%, allowing for radical improvements in weight loss and weight management programs. And unlike food supplements that claim to work but have no scientific basis, this drug was approved by the FDA in the US as well as the European Union, and our local BFAD (Bureau of Food and Drugs).

Weight management counsellors are also available by phone, from 9 am - 6 pm, Monday to Friday, to help you compute your BMI, and to give advice on how you can avail of a long-term weight management program. If you're in Metro Manila, call **899-5955** and a counsellor will be on hand to answer your questions. (Outside Metro Manila, please dial **1-800-1-888-5955**).

FREE BMI CALCULATOR. If you would like to check your own Body Mass Index (BMI) fill out this coupon and send it by fax at **890-5012** or mail to Xenical Counselling Center, PO Box 3994, Makati Central Post Office. You can also send an e-mail containing all the information below, and send it to xenical@bcdpinpoint.com . We will send you your own BMI calculator, along with instructions on its use.



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Body Mass Index (BMI) Calculator

✓ **YES,** Please send me my free BMI calculator, along with instructions on how I can accurately measure my Body Mass Index. Please send to the address below:

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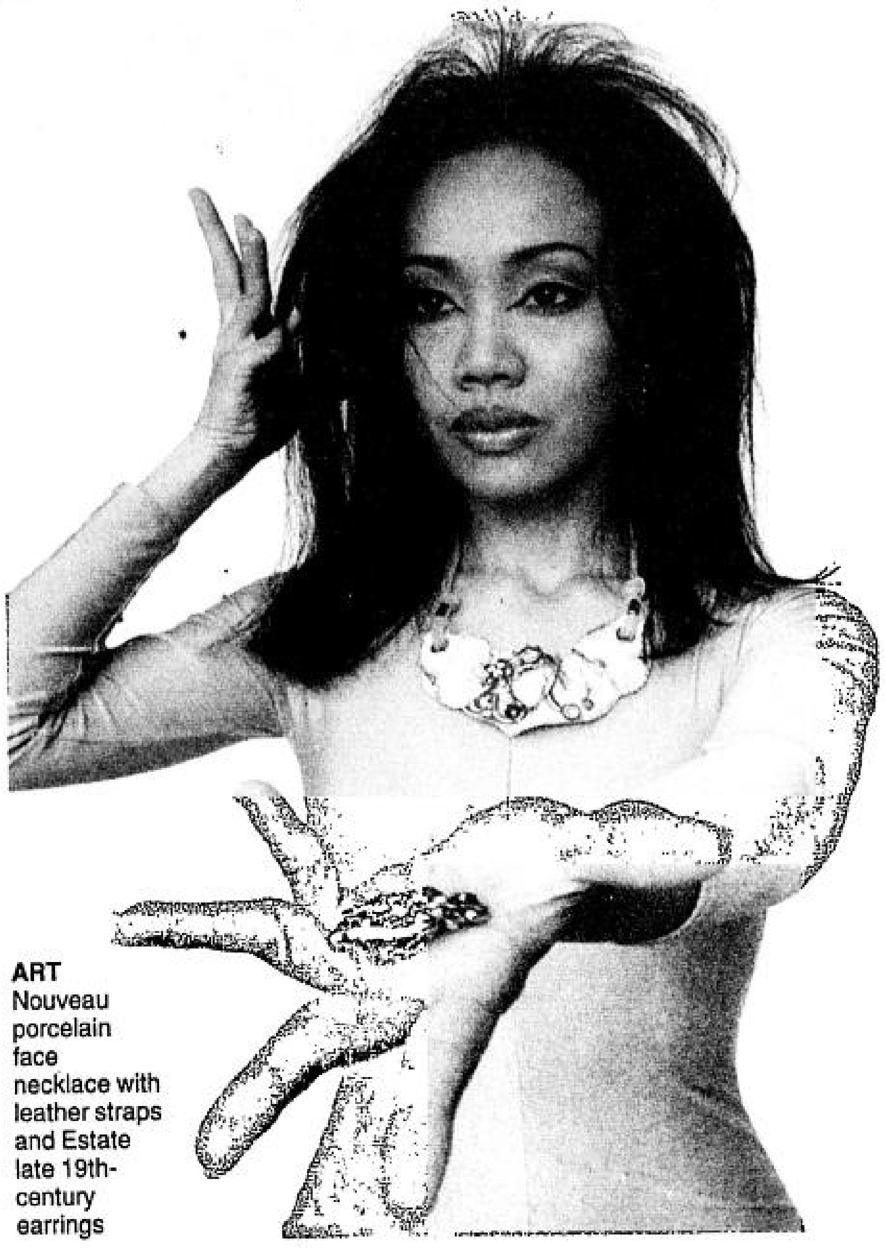
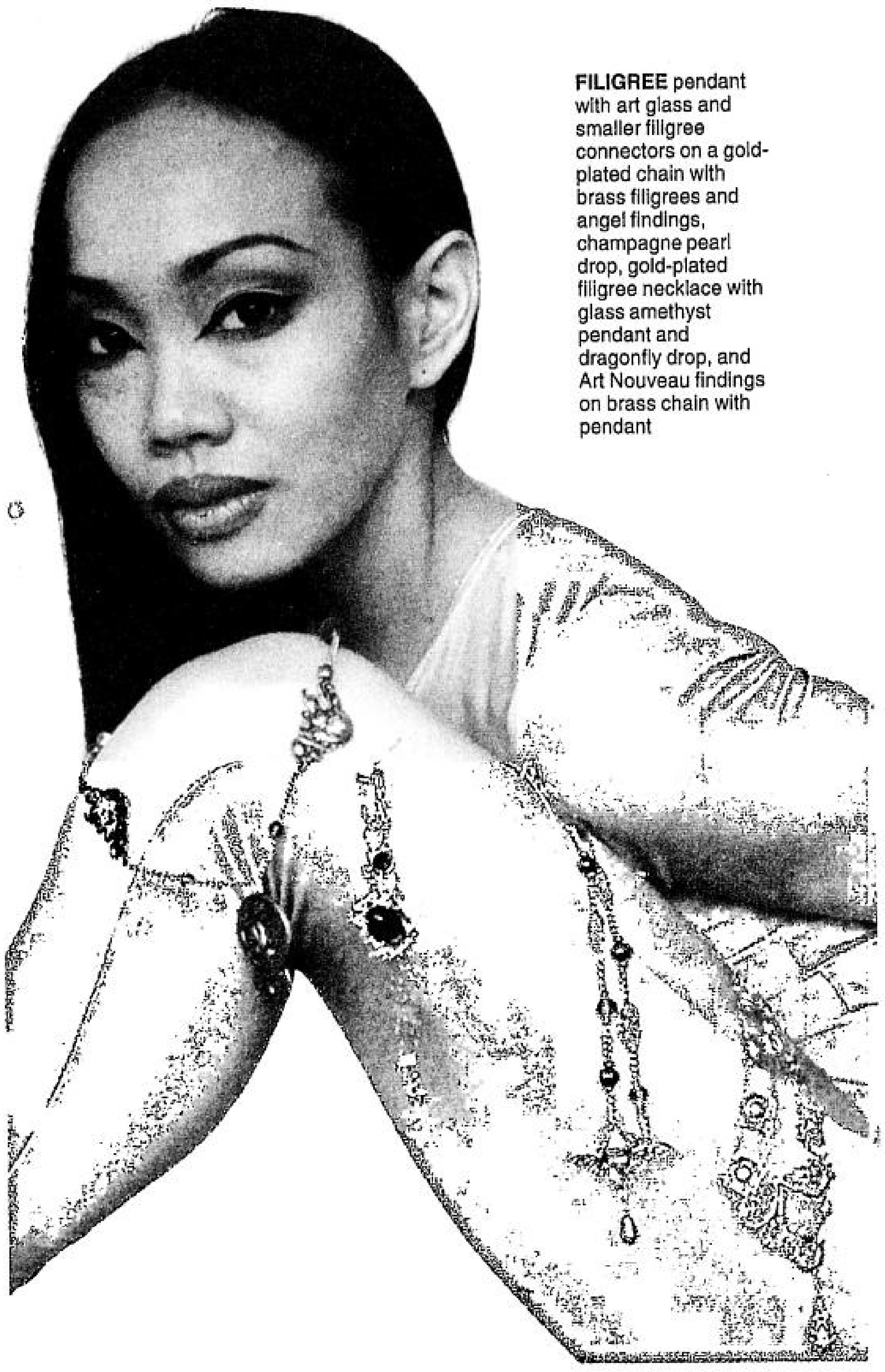


ART Nouveau porcelain face necklace with leather straps and Estate late 19th-century earrings

The unpredictable mixture of the old and the new goes far beyond being funky. In a world of push buttons and instant gratification, touching base with the old is humanizing



FILIGREE pendant with art glass and smaller filigree connectors on a gold-plated chain with brass filigrees and angel findings, champagne pearl drop, gold-plated filigree necklace with glass amethyst pendant and dragonfly drop, and Art Nouveau findings on brass chain with pendant

Something new about something old

Photos by Chito Vecina
PICTORIAL DIRECTION BY ALBERT AVELLANA

MODEL: GEORGETTE SANCHEZ OF BALLET PHILIPPINES

HAIR AND MAKEUP BY JOJO ARJONA FOR TENG ROMA OF EMPHASIS SALON, ROCKWELL

MAKEUP BY CHANEL, RUSTAN'S

BEAURICACQ JEWELRY IS EXCLUSIVE TO FIRMA, 616 J. NAKPIL ST., MALATE, MANILA, TEL. 525-5001

(From page E1)

Queen Victoria—defined the station of an individual in society. The invention of paste to duplicate diamonds and the license of using gold plating, gold toning and gilding over brass and base metal yielded beautiful and affordable results. The creation of glass jewels, centered in Central Europe, specifically in Austria and Czechoslovakia, facilitated a greater number of designs and viability of production.

The uniqueness in the designs of Tiffany and Rene Lalique also brought about the character of art nouveau jewelry, eventually curbed into the style of the Machine Age and a reinterpretation of the modern with the emergence of the Art Deco movement.

All these developments provided a choice to buy expensive or inexpensive jewelry: the designs of both the high-end and the costume markets disseminated a common look that became accessible to those who could afford them.

And now they are back in the consciousness of the 21st-century collector whose principle of self-styling leaves room for eclecticism and individual expression. The *bobos* have their great grandmother's jewelry to mix with their T-shirts and jeans; more important, they treat the style with the same spirit of fun and casualness, incorporating the richness of designs from the past with their upbeat digital existence.

The sudden demand for, vintage jewelry—real or costume—has pushed prices in the market. Real high-end vintage jewelry will always remain in the hundreds of thousands, but now even period costume jewelry, especially those belonging to the periods mentioned earlier have risen quite steeply in price.

Collectible vintage design names like Coro, Eisenberg, Miriam Haskell, Hattie Carnegie or even Danecraft necklaces and bracelets have become price finds in the United States and Europe. Vintage Czech or Bohemian costume jewelry have also gained such a reputation in the market.

Gold-plated filigree chains, carved shell cameos, vintage lockets, brooches and fobs have become objects of immediate desire. Authentic or glass jet mourning jewelry and cameos mixed with hematite, Bohemian glass beads and jewelry mixed with brass stampings reflect an intricacy quite absent if not forgotten from cold, modernistic designs. Interest in bakelite and celluloid, the earliest forms of plastic, in interesting simulations of coral and ivory is also part of this new preoccupation.

Dearth in RP

Unfortunately, there is dearth of vintage costume jewelry in our country. To begin with, Filipinos have always considered fancy jewelry with disinterest, regardless of make or quality. It's the real thing or nothing. Moreover, whatever vintage faux pieces might have crossed the Pacific to reach our islands may have been destroyed during World War II. After all, at that pivotal moment when you run for your life and limb, fake jewelry would never cross your mind as family-heirloom.

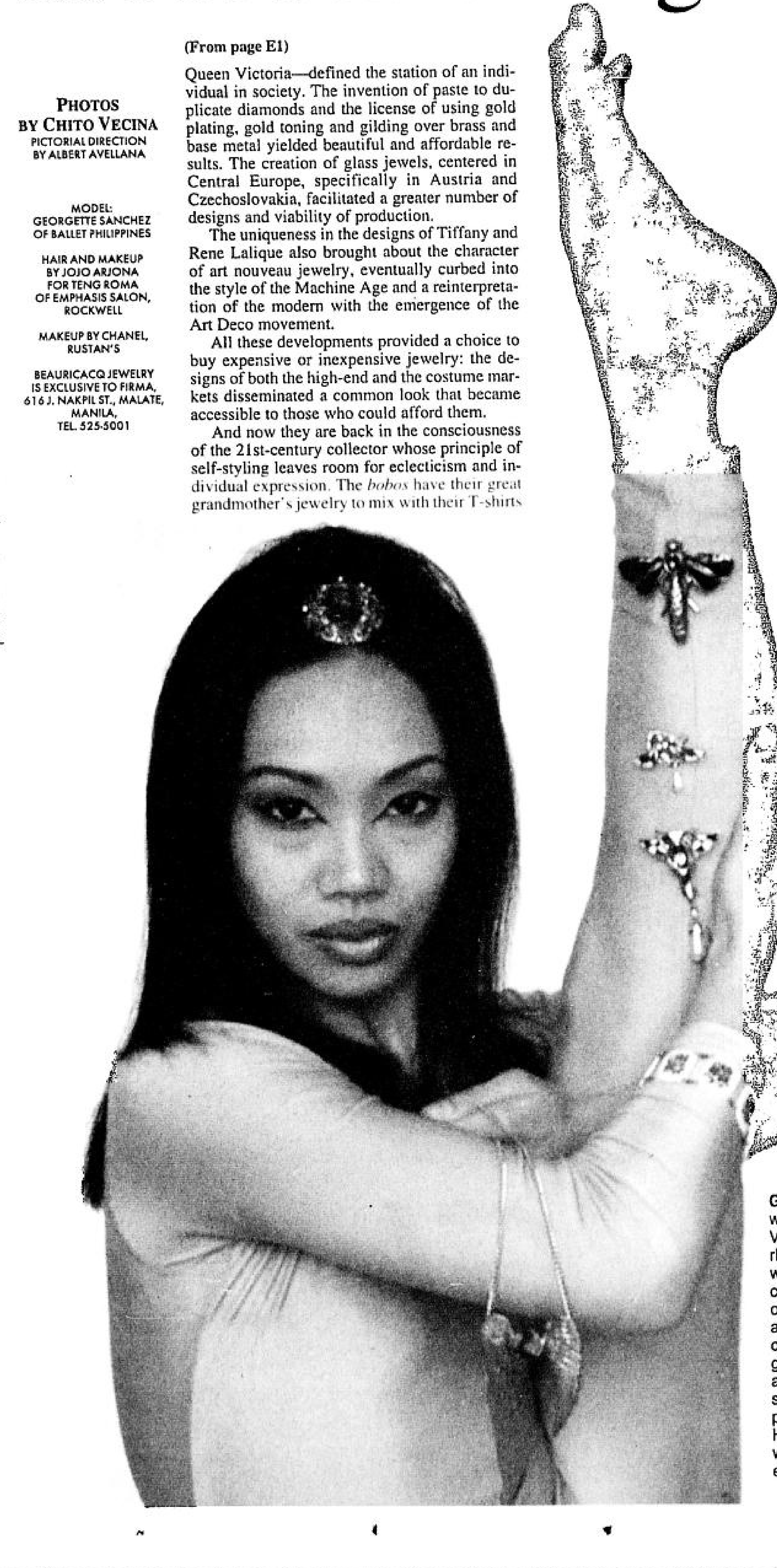
But once in a while one can still come across an antique tortoise shell hair comb or *payneta*, samples of onyx and marcasite bracelets and earrings from the period... or even intricate *tamburins* laboriously produced by local craftsmen. And there are all the rare silver mesh purses from the '20s and '30s preserved in fine form together with beautiful filigree demi-parures. An antique dealer friend once said that the stock of these items has been completely depleted because of demand.

The unpredictable mixture of the old and the new goes far beyond being funky. Somehow, in a world of push buttons and instant gratification, in a universe of simulation, disposables and recyclables, touching base with the old is but a humanizing attempt. Constant references to ages more innocent spark some sense of hope even warmth, amid everything that has gone staid and cynical.

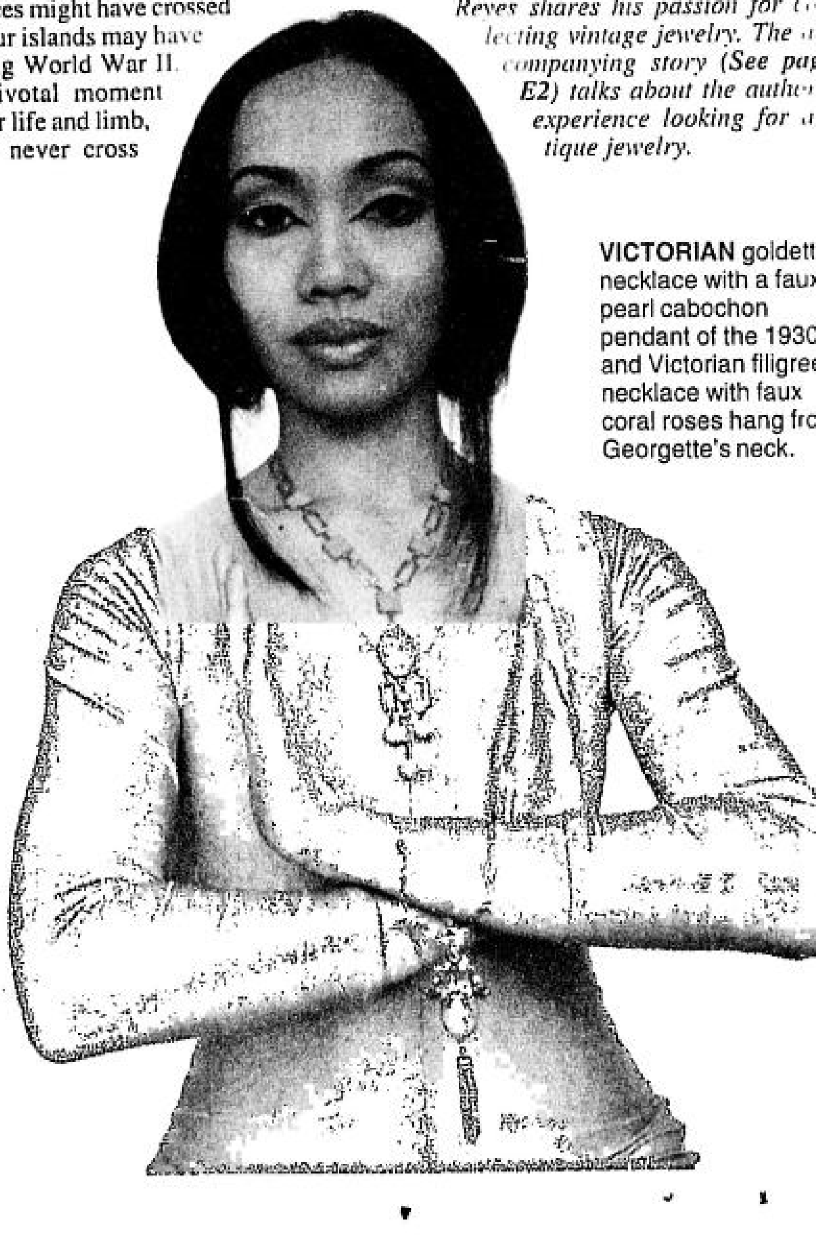
That is why we keep looking back and touching the past. It is one of the few ways we can grasp the here and now.

***About the author:** When the author is not churning out scripts, directing movies or designing bags, he finds therapy in writing. While most writers get a block or a burnout after a story, Joey Reyes can easily turn out two articles when the editor asks for one. To him it was a piece of cake to write two essays between his assignments—a documentary on Edsa II and a movie for Seiko titled "Tikim."*

"It's tasteful," notes Reyes on this movie about a jueteng lord. For Lifestyle, Reyes shares his passion for collecting vintage jewelry. The accompanying story (See page E2) talks about the author's experience looking for antique jewelry.



GEORGETTE wears a filigree Victorian revival rhinestone brooch with a molded cameo centerpiece on her hair. On her arm are gold-plated chain with Czech glass ruby pendant and angel wings and silver and ivory painted bracelet. Her leg is dotted with Art Nouveau enamel pins.



VICTORIAN goldette necklace with a faux pearl cabochon pendant of the 1930s and Victorian filigree necklace with faux coral roses hang from Georgette's neck.

Gigi Eala's 'mind clothes' take after architecture and surfaces

NATURAL fabrics are light and flowing.

The architecture of the mind

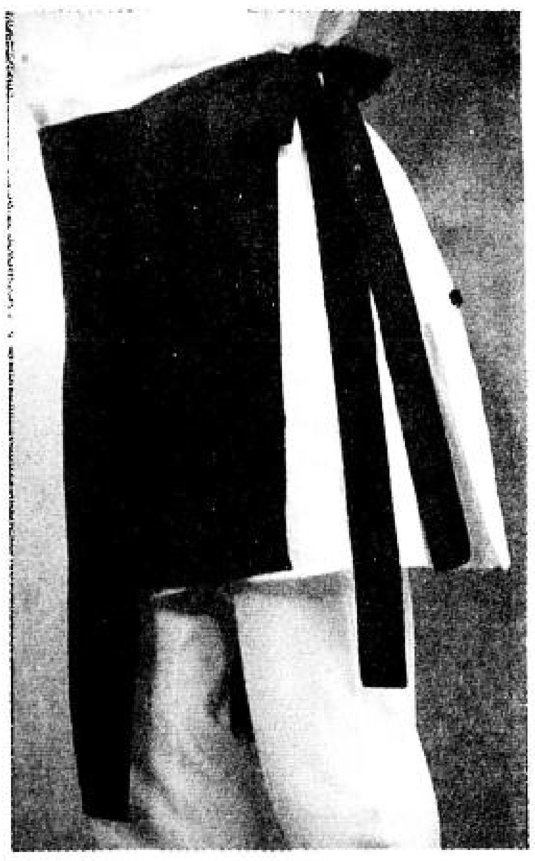
PHOTOS BY MIKE ALQUINTO
PICTORIAL DIRECTION BY ALBERT AVELLANA

SOME of the best designers have a background in architecture, which teaches the artist discipline in line and technique. Architect Gigi Eala has just ventured into designing homeware for B at Home, the showroom of designer Budji Layug.

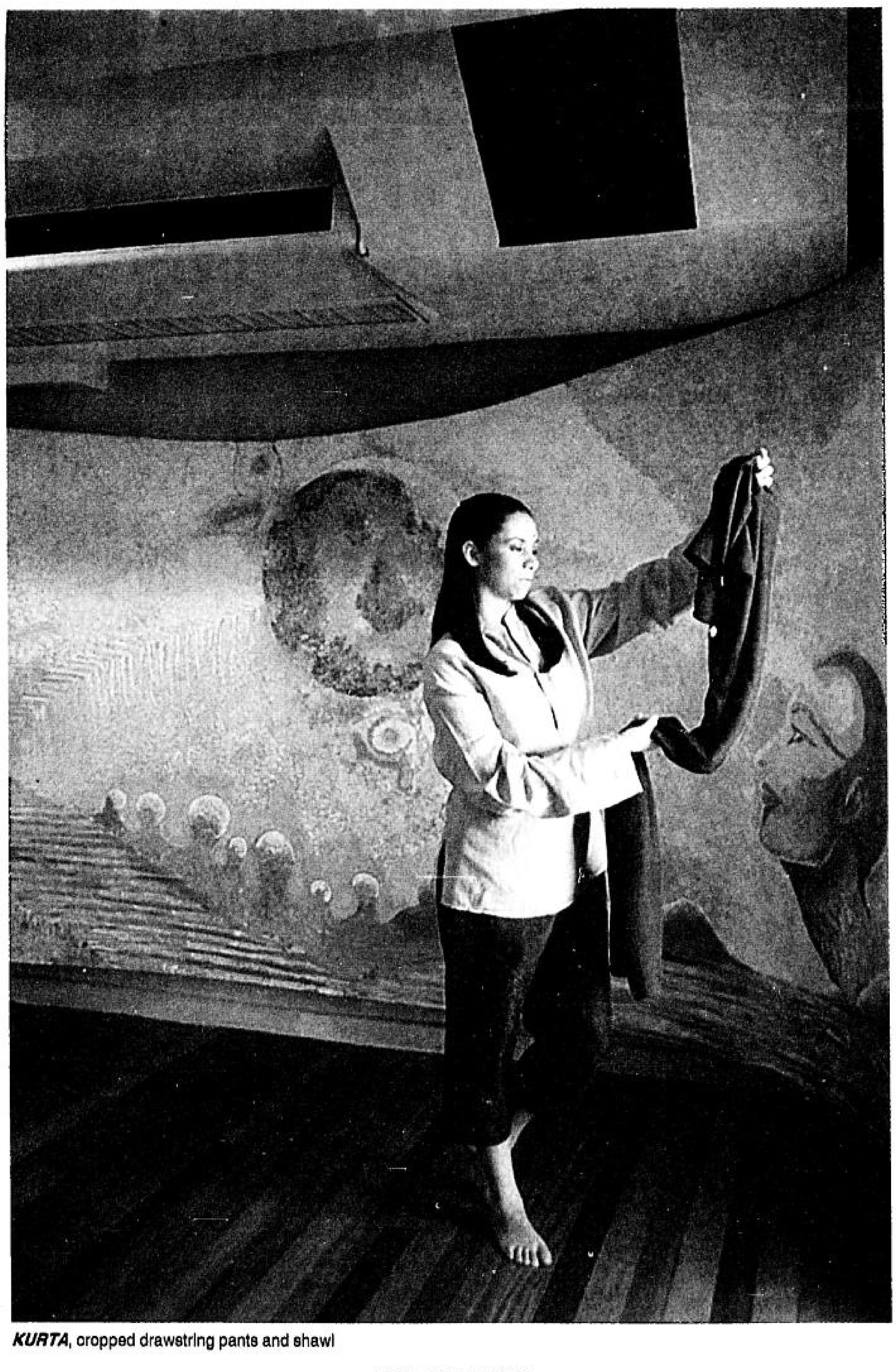
The clothing line was created to complement the lifestyle experience of B at Home. Since the clothes are meant for lounging, relaxing or meditating, the look is loose and unconstructed. They can be styled by the individual.

"The collection itself is not planned, but is constantly evolving," Eala said. There are references to India such as the *kurta* and *pajama*, and to other Oriental inspirations such as the Mao collar and the kimono wrap. Eala favors natural fabrics such as silks and linens because they are light and flowing.

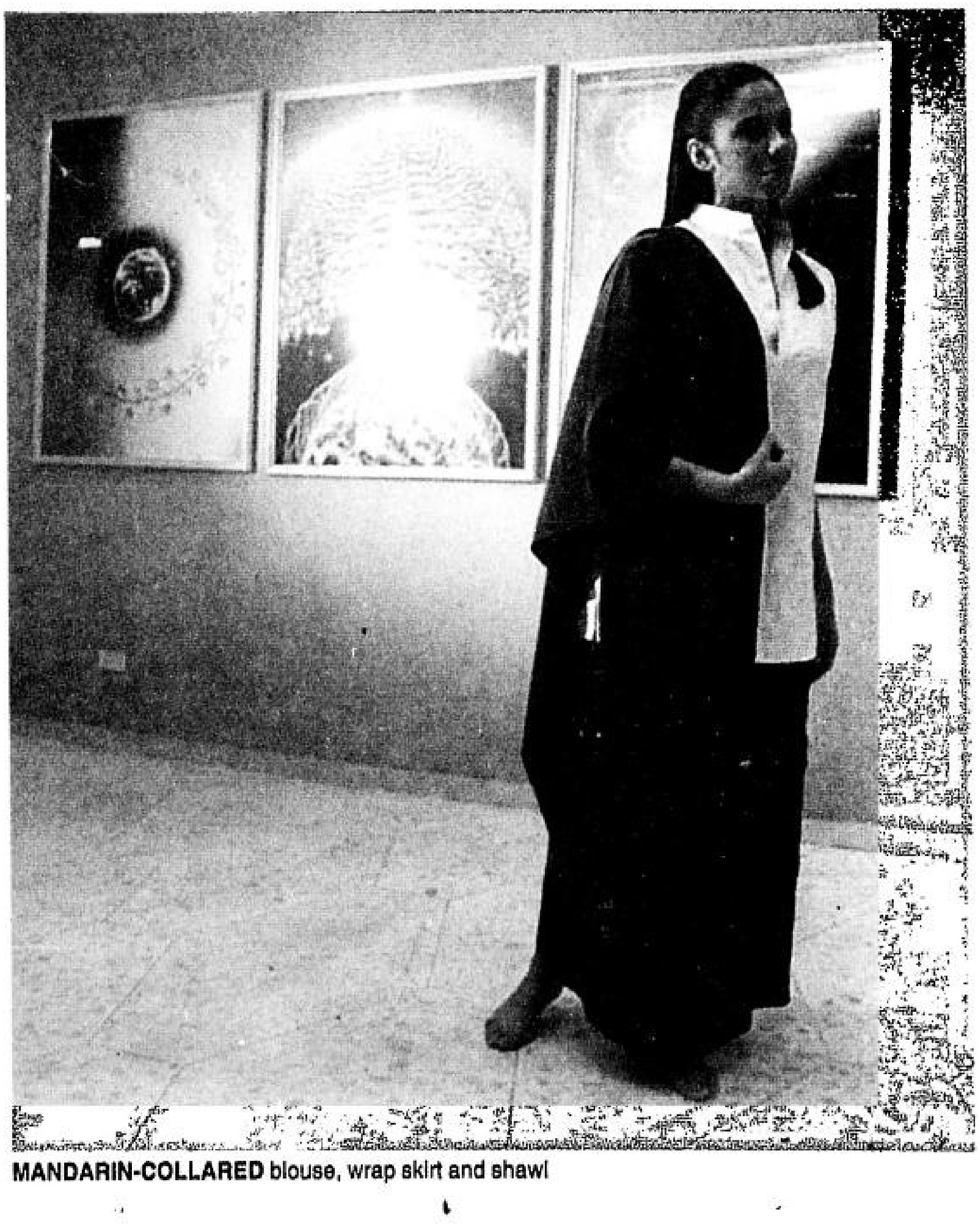
Eala's fashions are what you call "mind clothes." This genre focuses on fabrics and creative cuts. It's not about showing the body, rather the way the patterns drape the figure. Eala's clothes look good on both small and full figures. They look good even on a plus-size body.



APRON skirt



KURTA, cropped drawstring pants and shawl



MANDARIN-COLLARED blouse, wrap skirt and shawl

MODEL: CAMILLE DOWLING
HAIR AND MAKEUP BY TESSIE MACASAET
LOCATION: INNER SPACE PEACE GALLERY
EALA'S CLOTHES ARE AVAILABLE AT B AT HOME,
235 N. GARCIA AVE., BEL-AIR II, MAKATI CITY. TEL. 896-6316 AND 896-6348

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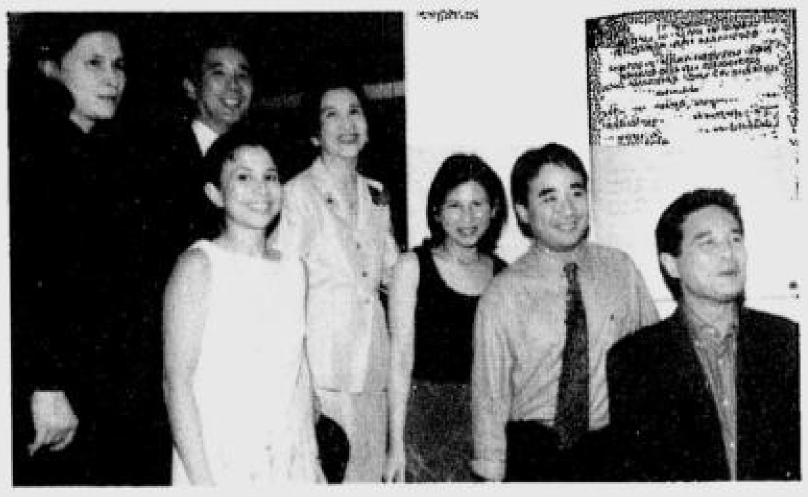

THE MONTINOLA family who are the biggest Filipino benefactors: Ging, Gigi, Ginna, Lourdes, Karen, Johnny and Anton

PHOTOS BY DENNIS SABANGAN

THE ALLIANCE Francaise has a new home on Nicanor Garcia Street, Bel-Air. The building strengthens the socio-economic ties between France and the Philippines. Needless to say, the biggest benefactors were the French government and the embassy.

Some of the biggest donors are Lafarge Cement Philippines, which has a tie-up with Republic Cement, Groupe BNP-Paribas, Suez-Lyon

ALLIANCE/ p. F3

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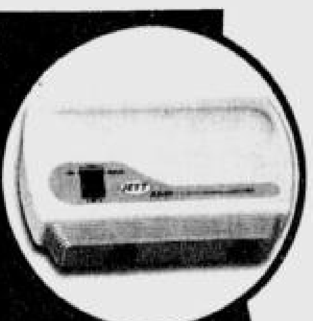

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3. Only a maximum of five (5) raffle numbers in a day will be assigned to an accountholder who used the EPS.
4. Prizes are as follows:
• Daily Prizes - 3 winners everyday of P1,000 each
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5. For the Daily Draws, the following shall apply:
5.1 Computer-generated raffle numbers assigned to EPS purchases on a particular date are valid for that date only.
5.2 An accountholder can win everyday, but only ONCE in each day's draw.
5.3 Draws will be held at the 15/F, BPI Head Office, Ayala Ave., Makati City on the following dates:

Purchase Dates	Draw Dates
Feb. 5 to Feb 11	Feb. 14
Feb. 12 to Feb 18	Feb. 21
Feb. 19 to Feb. 25	Feb. 28
Feb. 26 to March 4	March 7
March 5 to March 11	March 14
March 12 to March 18	March 21
March 19 to March 25	March 28
March 26 to April 1	April 4

A DTI representative will be present at each draw.
5.4 The P1,000 prize will be credited to the winner's account within seven (7) working days after the draw date.
6. For the Grand Draw, the following shall apply:
6.1 All computer-generated raffle numbers assigned to EPS purchases within the promo period are qualified for the Grand Draw.
6.2 Grand Draw will be held on April 4, 2001 at the 15/F, BPI Head Office, Ayala Avenue cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.
6.3 An accountholder can only win once. If drawn more than once, he will get the prize with the higher value.
6.4 All Grand Prize winners can claim their prizes at 15/F BPI Head Office Ayala Ave. Makati City. Just present your Express Teller ATM card and one (1) valid ID (driver's license, company ID, SSS ID).
6.5 Prizes are not convertible to cash. All prizes are tax-free.
7. List of account numbers with corresponding computer- generated raffle numbers will be available at the following locations •BPI Main Branch, BPI Head Office, Ayala Ave., Makati City • BPI Family Bank Main Branch, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City •BPI Baguio Burnham Branch, Baguio City • BPI Cebu-Mango Branch, Cebu City
8. Winners will be notified by registered mail. Compete list of winners will be published in a major newspaper with national circulation at the end of the promo.
9. Unclaimed prizes after 60 days from receipt of notification shall be forfeited with prior approval from DTI.
10. All Express Teller/BPI Direct accounts that are closed/terminated, dormant, under litigation or garnished during the promo period are disqualified.
11. All employees of BPI Unibank, its advertising and PR agencies, and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified.
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COVER-UP. Yellow bikini top (two-piece set, P1,425; blue beach printed skirt

Summer beckons
and it's time
to expose some skin

Bikini season

By Camille T. Cruz
Photos by Betoy Johnson

I RUSHED to the gym for a quick workout after the holidays. I just wanted to get my heartbeat started.

I hopped onto the treadmill to begin a slow-paced walk. Then I heard the voice of the trainer on duty, "Summer is coming!" He then led me to a bench to start working on my abs. I guess he meant that it was bikini season, and if I wanted to get into the feeling of the season, I would have to stay close to him for an intensive workout! That instant, I had a vision of me in a bikini.

What makes a good bikini? Well, think of the season. It's summer and you see a lot of sun, blue water and skies; fruit (at least the color of them); and lightness of being. All of this symbolizes the warmth in the atmosphere.

Summer does not only spell Speedo. They may be good quality swimwear, but we can save that for the Olympic pool. Don't get me wrong. Speedos have their own set of two-piece wear. It is just not the season for competition these days.

Bikinis come in various forms—stripes, florals, solids, animal prints, psychedelic prints ...Whatever mood you're in, go for it.

Classic styles are never too boring, but just once go for one that has a nice bright floral print rather than the one with a solid color.

For the bikini-shy, you can cover up by using a skirt, the short mini or A-line ones that can be worn in the water. You can find a lot of this at Nothing But Water and swimwear sections of department stores. These miniskirts can replace your bikini bottom, but of course, you still have to wear something underneath—if not your bikini bottom, then your one-piece bathing suit.

For the top-conscious, "tankinis" are great. They can cover most of your upper area, leaving your belly exposed. This is also great if you worry about your breasts falling out of a normal, classic bikini top.

Another substitute is the bikini boxer brief-type or what I like to call "mini shorts." They are fit to be hip with a little bit of '60s flavor.

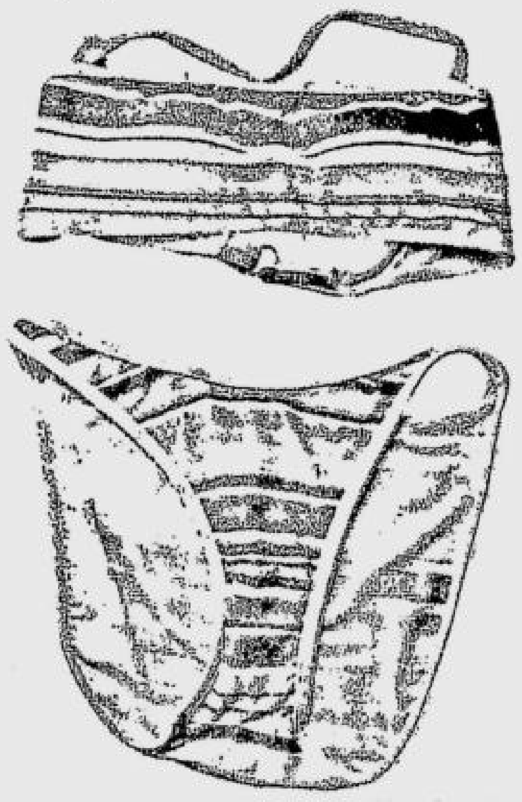
When you choose a bathing suit, check for versatility. You may want to wear only the top with a skirt or just regular shorts. You can go beyond the water with these pieces, as long as you're confident of exposing some skin.

E-mail the author at camille_cruz@hotmail.com

ALL ITEMS FROM NOTHING BUT WATER, G/F ALABANG TOWN CENTER, 850-7861; ROBINSONS GALLERIA, 635-3588.

IN BLOOM. White bikini with bold floral print, P1,490.

HAWAII 5-0. Aqua and white floral printed bikini, P1,150



ORANGE JUICE. Orange striped bandeau top with matching bikini, P1,425

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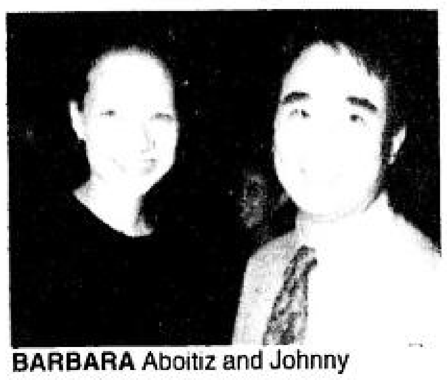
[illegible]

MARIVIC Rufino, Hubert D'Aboville, Air France GM Gerard Lanfrey and wife Catherine

ALBERT Avellana, Tweetums Gonzalez, guest and Adrian Lizares

AMADO Doronila and Dutch Ambassador Theo Arnold

RUFINO with Bel-Air barangay captain Constancia Lichauco and husband Paquito



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Alliance Française's new home in Bel-Air

(From page F1)

naise Des Eaux, Total Petroleum Philippines, Rustan Group of Companies, Michel Stamati of Guess?, Alstom Philippines, Ayala Corp., Bacchus International, Legrand Philippines and Shoemart Inc. There are stalwarts such as Jewelmer.

Former Alliance Francaise director Jean Francois Pluquet started soliciting funds for the building in the early '90s. Director Renaud Fessaguet saw the fruition of the efforts.

The cocktails last week was attended by members of Le Club, a group of French businessmen and the local culturati Among the prominent Filipinos known to the French are F. Sionil Jose and Rosalinda Orosa. There was street partying and the food was catered by the Italian Restaurant L'Incontro.

Heading the AF board is banker Aurelio "Gigi" Montinola III, a Francophile.

ZELDA, Stephanie and Jessica Kienle

AFM president Gigi Montinola and Olga Martel

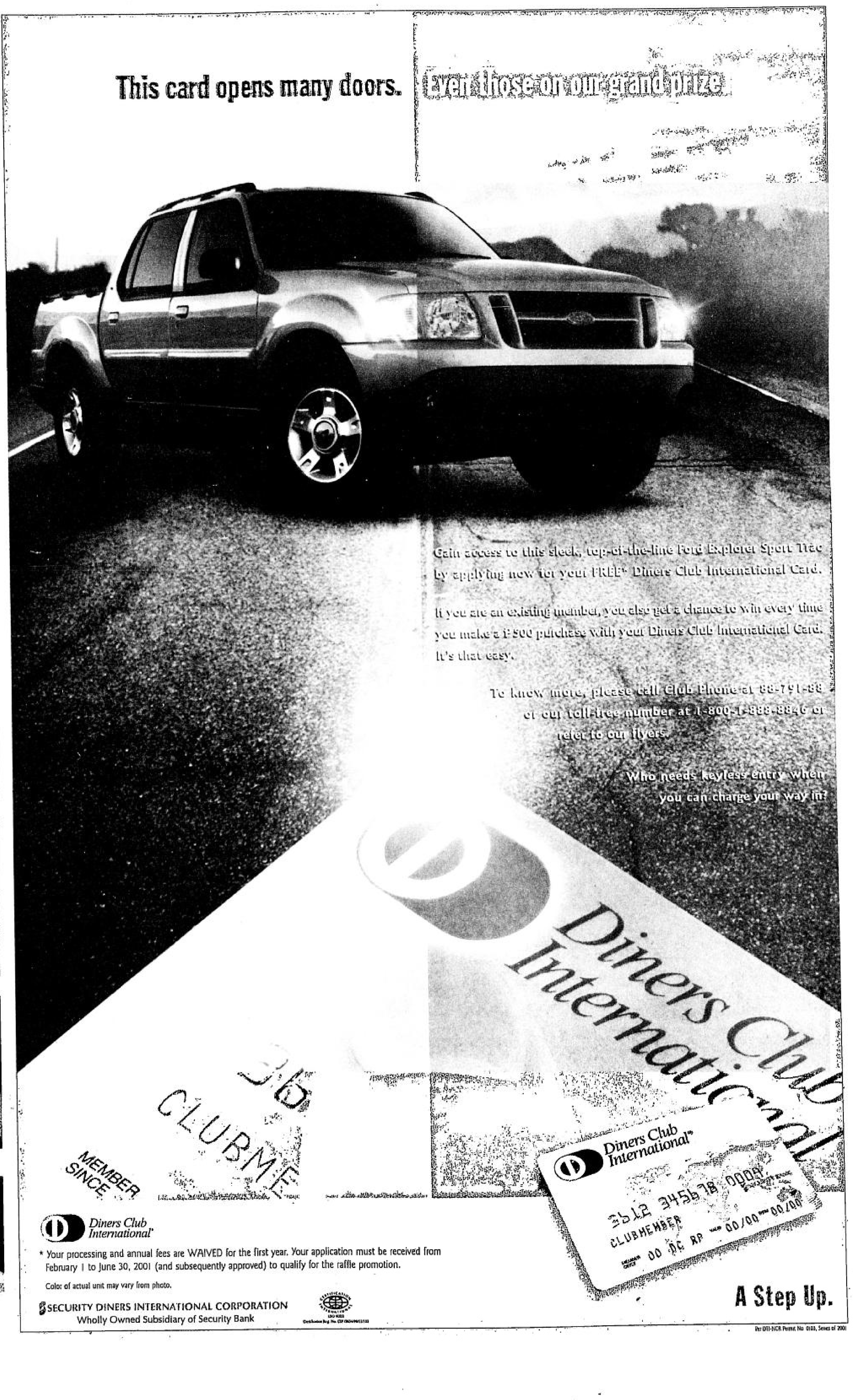
BILLY King and Frances Lim

NCCA director Jaime Laya

VIRGINIA Moreno

AFM director Alex Lichaytoo

BART Guingona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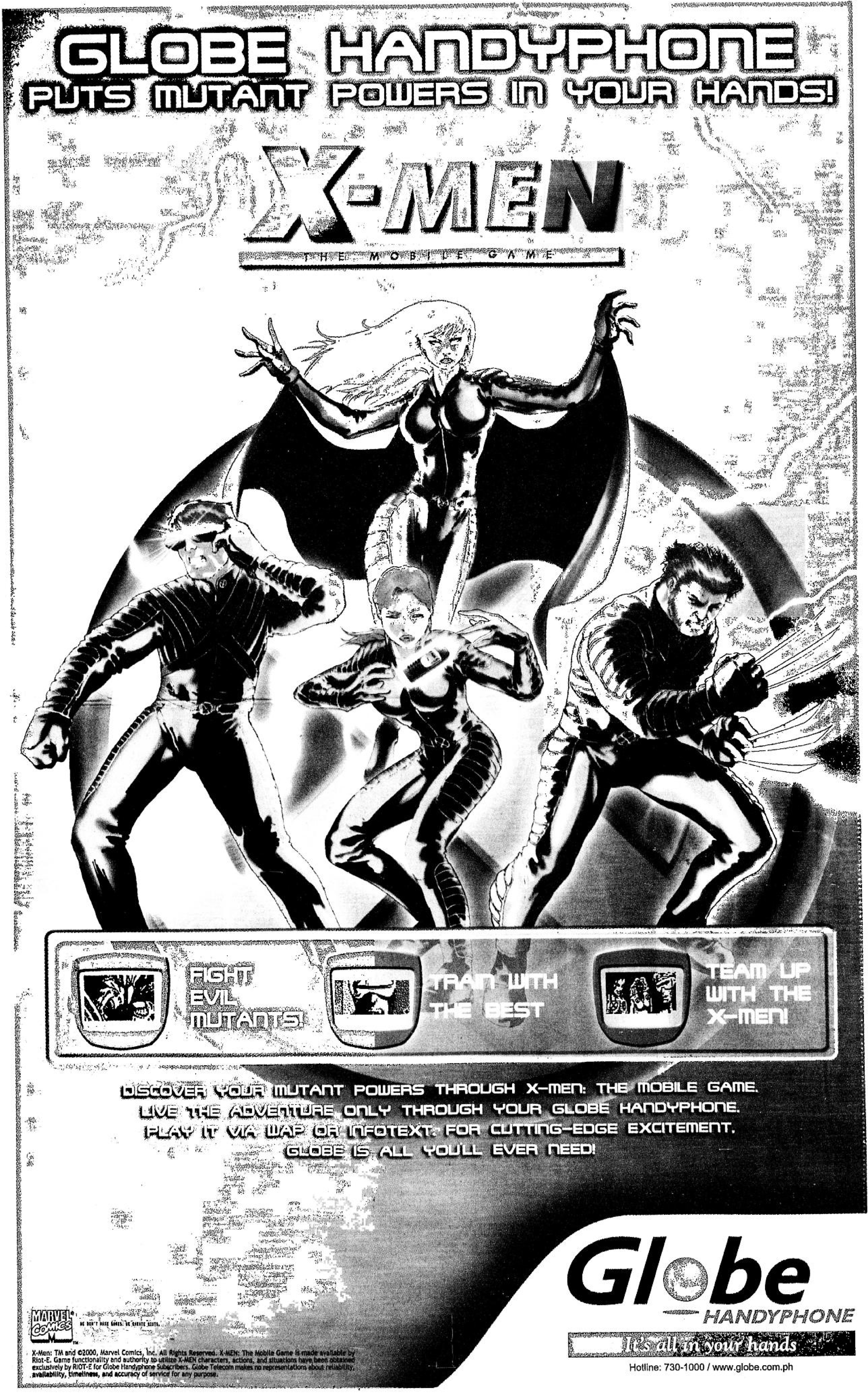

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GLOBE HANDYPHONE

X-MEN BATTLEGUIDE

THE MOBILE GAME

VIA INFOTEXT

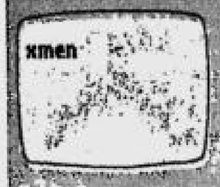
[illegible] mutant? What are your amazing superhuman powers? Find out by [illegible] Handyphone's X-MEN: The Mobile Game via Infotext. Discover your hidden [illegible] and train under Professor Xavier. Then compete against other mutants to [illegible] skills and powers.

The future of the world is in your hands!

When playing and typing in the commands remember that:

- All messages begin with **xmen**
- Each word or abbreviation must be separated by a space.
- It does not matter if you write in UPPER or lower case.
  Exceptions to this are code names of other players.
- Every message must be sent to the server at the following number: **2324**
- Two first characters of each game command suffice when the player sends messages.
  An exception to this is the command XMEN and the code names of other players.

BATTLE COMMANDS

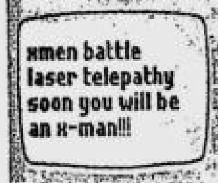


xmen

To join the school for the first time, key-in: **xmen** and send to **2324.**

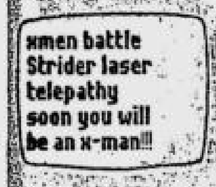
xmen Strider
11.09.1972

Creating your character, key-in: **xmen [code name] [birth date/mm.dd.yyyy]** and send to **2324.**



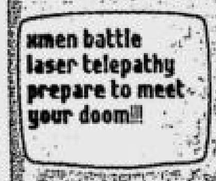
xmen battle
laser telepathy
soon you will be
an x-man!!!

To practice a duel, key-in: **xmen battle [attack mutation] [defense mutation] [your 50 character message]** and send to **2324**.



xmen battle
Strider laser
telepathy
soon you will
be an x-man!!!

To practice a duel with your friend / against bitter enemy, key-in: **xmen battle [name/phone number] [attack mutation] [defense mutation] [your 50 character message]** and send to **2324**.



xmen battle
laser telepathy
prepare to meet
your doom!!!

To respond to a duel challenge, key-in: **xmen battle [attack mutation] [defense mutation] [your 50 character message]** and send to **2324.**

xmen chat Strider
you cannot hide
from me!

To chat with another player, key-in: **xmen chat [code name] [message]** and send to **2324.**

OTHER COMMANDS:

- To check the information on your own game character, key-in: **xmen stats** and send to **2324.**
- To take a break from the game, key-in: **xmen off** and send to **2324.**
- To resume the game, key-in: **xmen on** or **xmen battle** and send to **2324.**
- To quit the game, key-in: **xmen quit** and send to **2324.**
- For general instructions, key-in: **xmen help** and send to **2324**
- To know more about a certain command, key-in: **xmen help [command]** and send to **2324.**
- To know the overview of the game, key-in: **xmen idea** and send to **2324.**

Text Messaging Rates for X-Men: The Mobile Game:
₱2.00 for Plan Subscribers, ₱2.50 for Prepaid Plus Subscribers, for every successful message sent.

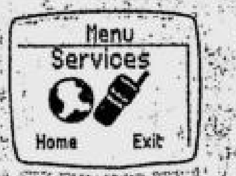
VIA WAP

Get ready to save the world from the Magneto and his evil Brotherhood of Mutants. In this WAP version of X-Men: The Mobile Game, you take on the role of Professor Xavier, leader of the X-Men. Your task: fight Magneto's troops who have already taken over cities around the globe. Send your team to these cities and free them from the clutches of those malevolent mutants.

Here's how to get started on the X-MEN: The Mobile Game via WAP:

nokiawap

1. If you're a first time WAP-user, key-in the keyword of your phone type and send it to **2333.** The WAP phone configurations will be sent to you. The keywords are: <nokiawap> for Nokia 7110 and 6210, <siemenswap> for Siemens M35i, <ericssonwap> for EricssonR320s, <motorolawap> for Motorola T2288.



2. If your WAP handset is already configured, go to the services menu of your WAP-capable phone and click on Home.

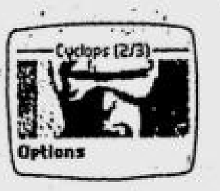
Connecting to service
Cancel

3. You will then see a prompt advising you that you are being connected to the service.

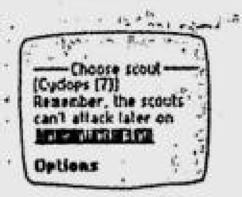
GLOBE TELECOM
GLOBE TELECOM
New Sites

4. Once connected, the Globe Homepage will appear. Find and click on XMEN under the New Sites and Games Category and WAP away.

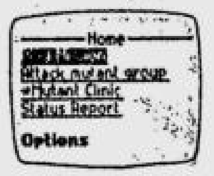
Here's how to play X-MEN: The Mobile Game via WAP:



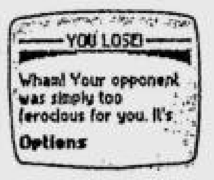
STARTING THE MISSION: Click on **Start new mission** on the main menu. To start a mission, pick one city out of three alternatives. After you have chosen the city, you can either send a scout or make an attack plan.



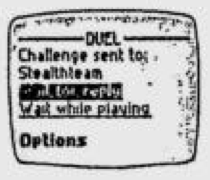
SENDING A SCOUT: To collect more information about your opponents in the chosen city you can send a scout. Do this by clicking on **Send a scout.** Each scout that is sent brings back information on one of the opponent's team members; name, location, and mutant ability level. This information should help you to make your attack plan. The scout, however, cannot be used in combat.



ENEMY: An attack plan is made by clicking on **Make attack plan.** You are presented with pictures of the specific targets. The pictures help you to assign the targets according to your team members' special skills. When a mutant for each target is chosen, click **Launch attack** and that will start the attack.



MISSION RESULTS: After every mission, you are informed of the result of the battle and of your team members' new mutation values. If the mission was successful, you can move on to the next city. If not, the mission has to be started over. The second time around is easier, since you now know how the specific targets affect team members' skill levels.



DUEL WITH OTHER MUTANT GROUPS: Challenge another team to a duel by clicking on the link **Duel.** Then key-in the name of the mutant group you want to challenge or battle a group from a random list of players. The challenge is then forwarded to the opponent assuming he or she is currently active in the game.

Status report
wysiwyg
Options

STATUS REPORT: Click on **Status report** and get info on your mutant group, including your group name, current game level, number of missions completed and duels fought (victories/losses/total amount of duels). The report also tells the number of missions and duels required for moving up one level.

INSTRUCTIONS: Get the complete instructions for the game by clicking **Instructions** on the main page or log on to Globe's website at http://www.globe.com.ph.

WAP rates for X-Men: The Mobile Game:

	For Plan Subscriptions:					Prepaid:
	Advantage	Personal	Business	Executive	CEO	
Peak Hours	₱7.50	₱7.00	₱6.50	₱5.00	₱4.00	₱8.00
Off-Peak Hours	₱3.00	₱3.00	₱2.00	₱2.00	₱2.00	₱3.00

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Everywoman's guide to survival

Three Black Skirts: All You Need to Survive
By Anna Johnson, 238 pp.
Workman Publishing, New York

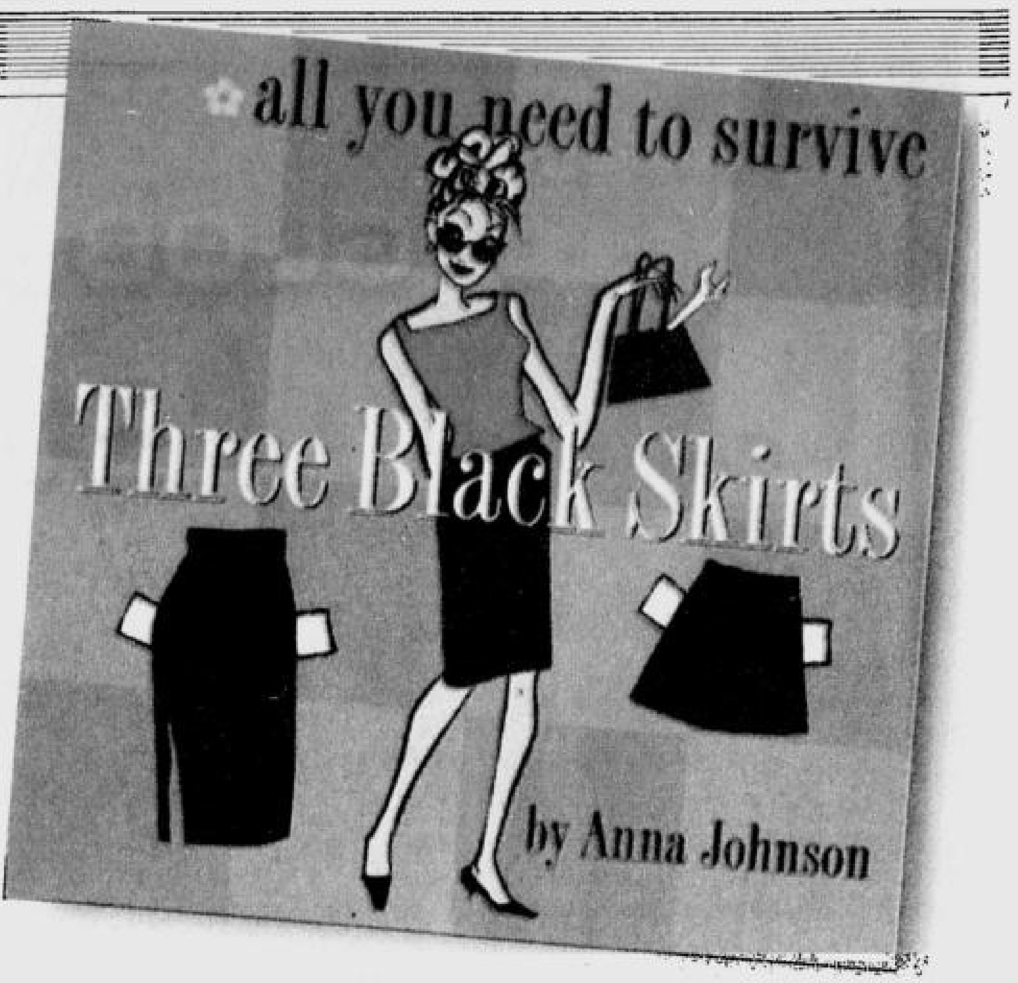
BY CHERISH GARCIA HERNANDEZ

REVIEW

BALANCE, strength, well-being and a killer wardrobe' are all a girl needs to survive," says Anna Johnson, in her book "Three Black Skirts: All You Need to Survive." Johnson, who has written for magazines like Elle, Vanity Fair and Vogue, gives us what is basically another self-help book, but with an edge. Most books of this genre are either too serious, or too flippant in giving advice. Johnson, on the other hand, gives no-nonsense, sensible advice brimming with wit and intelligence.

The book covers everything from style, career, to spiritual and emotional rescue. Its design has a very fun, retro '50s feel to it (the cover of the Go-go's "Vacation" album comes to mind), and yet even the most accomplished woman can learn a thing or two. It is easy-reading with lots of meat to it and it never goes the way of other self-help books that always seem to give the most impossible advice that no one can relate to.

'The first women's revolution was about the right to do more; the second might be about the desire to do less'



Well-being

In the first chapter, which is about well being, Johnson talks about nutrition and the importance of eating the right kind of foods complete with a chart that tells you what healing properties certain foods have. For instance, bananas as energy booster and mood lifter, or celery as a cellulite buster. But she doesn't stop there. She also whimsically suggests writing a love letter to your bottom or some other dejected region of your physique. Sure it sounds nutty, to say the least, but she gives very persuasive arguments on why we should love our bodies and against the idea of altering them. This actually makes perfect sense. Most women's magazines just make women feel bad by giving them unattainable standards of beauty and selling them every conceivable product in the market to hopefully achieve this. Of course, there is no magic product that can transform us and the sooner we start loving ourselves, the happier we will be.

On style, she gives the rundown on what a super basic wardrobe entails as well as standard "style maxims." She says an ideal wardrobe would revolve around three black skirts. "One knee-length for work, one long and slinky for seduction, and one short and stretchy for PMS bloat and pigging out." She doesn't stick to the usual dressing rules we have heard time and again, although she discussed the obvious. (Big prints, polka dots and horizontal stripes are very fattening). Johnson gives some basic advice then encourages the reader to cultivate her own sense of style based on her personality and living circumstances. She does stress good grooming and she also gives great tips like how to iron silk and how to hang skirts.

Her beauty tips include skin myths, homemade beauty recipes, makeup bag basics and of course, how to be beautiful ethically by not buying products that are tested on animals. She also talks about the four ages of a woman, (10s, 20s, 30s, 40s and beyond), and how one's beauty routines and rituals should change with age.

Decorating

She also tackles the "*casa* question" and gives great suggestions on how to decorate the home with a little creativity. She then goes on to give very specific lessons on life skills. She actually has a section called "repairs 101" where the reader can learn how to change a flat, fix stopped-up drains or even make a fire. She covers the money issue as well and offers simple solutions to credit card debts and living within one's means. There are also no-fail recipes for entertaining, guidance on career advancement and advice on love and friendship.

And just when you think she has covered everything, she segues into spirituality and political responsibility. If a woman can imbibe half of what Johnson preaches, she will be well-rounded indeed.

Interestingly enough, Johnson makes absolute sense. A lot of what she writes about are things we have heard before; she just puts them in a whole new perspective. Her approach to life is not one-dimensional. Rather, she marries an almost obsessive practicality with immense positivism. She does all this without ever losing her sense of humor and without taking herself too seriously. She continuously stresses finding and appreciating one's inner self and finding joy and balance within.

Johnson says "the first women's revolution was about the right to do more; the second might be about the desire to do less." We are all trying to be many things at once; a wife, a mother, a friend, a lover—for other people. Once in a while it feels great to be in touch with oneself for a change.

This was the first time we read a self-help book that made us want to dance around the house in pajamas to some funky lounge music. It will probably also make you want to build a bonfire of old love letters or perhaps join some yoga classes. It is that kind of book and it is just what every woman needs. Read it, think about it, and give it to your mom, sister or best friend. In fact, why not give it to yourself?

How do you fit two giants in one page?

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Color optics show

DISCOVER hair as the ultimate fashion accessory as L'Oreal Professionel launches its all-new range, Color Optics, with a sneak preview of the biggest fashion stores at the Glorietta Atrium on Feb. 25. Guest stylist, London-trained David Dowdeswell will be flown in by L'Oreal to participate in the occasion. L'Oreal Style Society members Nelson Aguilar of Hair Works, Pin Antonio of Salon de Manila, Angelo Justin of Franck Provost and Manfred Spiering of Basement also headline the event. Back-to-back shows of Color Optics trends and the cutting-edge wear by designer Lulu Tan Gan are set for 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. On the same day, the L'Oreal Style Society will offer free hair consultations, 12 nn-7 p.m.

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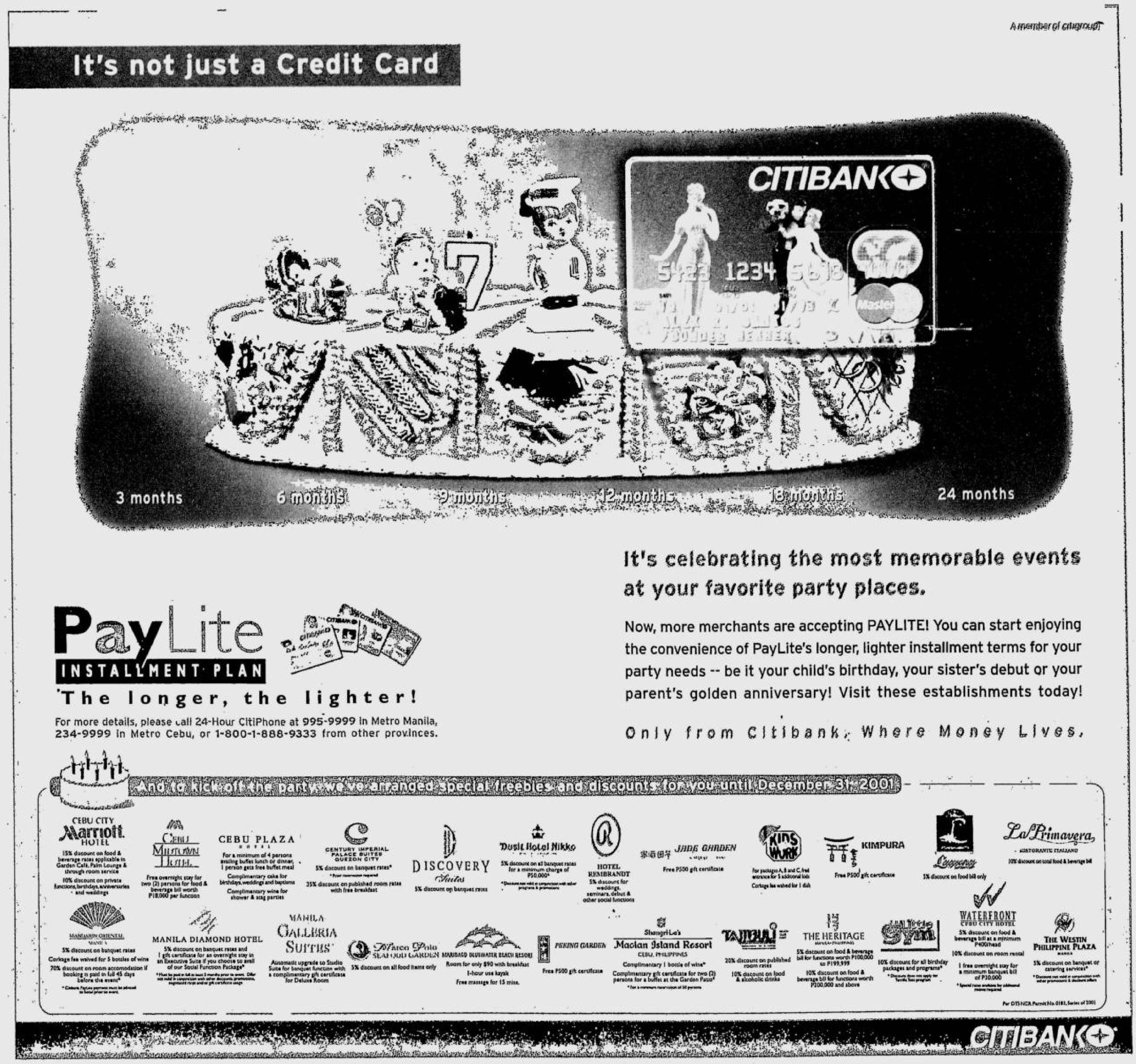
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Cebu Midtown Hotel: Free overnight stay for two (2) persons for food & beverage bill worth P18,000 per function
Cebu Plaza Hotel: For a minimum of 4 persons availing buffet lunch or dinner, 1 person gets free buffet meal. Complimentary cake for birthdays, weddings and baptisms. Complimentary wine for shower & stag parties
Century Imperial Palace Suites Quezon City: 5% discount on banquet rates*. 35% discount on published room rates with free breakfast
Discovery Suites: 5% discount on banquet rates
Dusit Hotel Nikko: 5% discount on all banquet rates for a minimum charge of P50,000*
Hotel Rembrandt: 5% discount for weddings, seminars, debut & other social functions
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Kimpura: Free P500 gift certificate
5% discount on food bill only
La Primavera Ristorante Italiano: 10% discount on total food & beverage bill
Mandarin Oriental Manila: 5% discount on banquet rates. Corkage fee waived for 5 bottles of wine. 70% discount on room accomodation if booking is paid in full 45 days before the event*
Manila Diamond Hotel: 5% discount on banquet rates and 1 gift certificate for an overnight stay in an Executive Suite if you choose to avail of our Social Function Package*
Manila Galleria Suites: Automatic upgrade to Studio Suite for banquet function with a complimentary gift certificate for Deluxe Room
Marco Polo Seafood Garden: 5% discount on all food items only
Maribago Bluewater Beach Resort: Room for only $90 with breakfast. 1-hour use kayak. Free massage for 15 mins.
Peking Garden: Free P500 gift certificate
Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort Cebu, Philippines: Complimentary 1 bottle of wine*. Complimentary gift certificate for two (2) persons for a buffet at the Garden Patio*
Taipan: 20% discount on published room rates. 10% discount on food & alcoholic drinks
The Heritage Manila Philippines: 5% discount on food & beverage bill for functions worth P100,000 to P199,999. 10% discount on food & beverage bill for functions worth P200,000 and above
Gym: 10% discount for all birthday packages and programs*
Waterfront Cebu City Hotel: 5% discount on food & beverage bill at a minimum P400/head. 10% discount on room rental. 1 free overnight stay for a minimum banquet bill of P30,000
The Westin Philippine Plaza Manila: 5% discount on banquet or catering services*

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0183, Series of 2001

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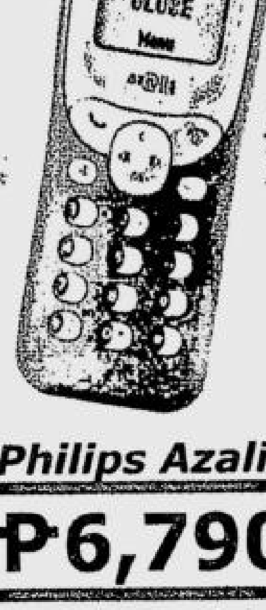

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